

Israel freezes out Ahmad Tibi

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli government froze out an architect of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord on Tuesday, saying his status as an Israeli citizen made him an unsuitable negotiator. The move could further delay the arrival of PLO leader Yasser Arafat to the autonomy, an Israeli television station reported. The directive from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres instructed government personnel to cut off all contact with Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab serving as an adviser to Mr. Arafat. "It wasn't right that an Israeli citizen, who should be loyal to the state of Israel, should also be formal member of a (Palestinian) delegation that negotiates on sensitive issues of state," said the foreign ministry's legal adviser, Yoel Zinger. Dr. Tibi, a physician from the central Israeli town of Taibe, helped bring about the Oslo talks that led to last September's Israel-PLO accord, through his friendship with then-Health Minister Haim Ramon. The accord introduced Palestinian autonomy in The Gaza Strip and Jericho. Israel still occupies the rest of the West Bank pending further negotiations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

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Volume 18 Number 5642

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1994, MUHARRAM 13, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King: Jordan determined to protect its interests

Negotiations with Israel regardless of other tracks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan was determined to protect its interests and move ahead with its negotiations with Israel with no bearing on progress on the other tracks of the 30-month-old Middle East peace process.

The King said coordination among the four Arab parties in the peace process — Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Jordan — had never been up to the level that was hoped for. Jordan hopes for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement embracing all dimensions of the Middle East conflict through the peace process, which is "irreversible," he said.

The King was speaking in a meeting with representatives with the U.S. media one day after he held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. The

King also met with Secretary of Defence William Perry later Tuesday.

The King is scheduled to hold talks with President Bill Clinton at the White House on Wednesday.

At the Defence Department, Mr. Perry received the King with full ceremonial honours.

The ceremonies were followed by closed-door meeting between the King and Mr. Perry during which they underlined the closeness of Jordanian-American relations.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qassem, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Al Tarawneh.

Jordanian and American officials meanwhile discussed bilateral relations and means of further enhancing them in

the various fields.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said the talks covered economic issues and Jordan's debts to the United States and other countries.

Mr. Gammoh said American officials were ready to discuss in detail financial and economic issues of mutual concern.

He added that the meetings would continue over the next two days.

Mr. Gammoh said Jordan's total debt to the U.S. amounts to \$951 million.

The King told reporters that Jordan-Israeli negotiation which will start next month in the Middle East "is not negotiation linked to anything that may or may not happen on any other track."

"In this situation we feel that nobody has the right to ask us what we do and we have the responsibility towards ourselves, towards our land, towards our rights, to do whatever we can to safe-

guard our interests," he said.

He said there has never been the hoped-for coordination among Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in their talks with Israel.

"As far as we are concerned this is a sovereign matter involving Jordan itself and has nothing to do with, nor is it tied to movements on any other track," he said.

He said he hoped for a comprehensive peace soon involving all parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"However, we are a sovereign country. We are dealing with our own problems. We started at the same point. And we are trying to see what we can achieve. Whether we will or not does not depend on any other factor other than Israel's coming through with the same kind of spirit," King Hussein said.

In negotiation with Israel, he said, the key question for Jordan is territory.

"The border between us

and Israel is not clearly settled yet. An issue that is very important to us is to regain our sovereignty over areas that are occupied by Israel in southern Jordan."

In the agreement leading to the new talks, Israel has accepted discussion of territory in a way that indicates it will return Jordanian land.

On the subject of a visit to Jerusalem, King Hussein said, "there is a lot of speculation that is way ahead of what is realistic."

"It's obviously my hope as a Hashemite and a Muslim Arab and as a Jordanian that conditions will permit a visit to the holy places in Jerusalem."

Asked about rumours that he and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had met recently with Israeli leaders, the King said:

"The fact that we haven't met publicly doesn't mean that the efforts of our colleagues and those who represent both countries are not a reflection of the spirit and the



His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington on Monday (see transcript of comments on page 2) (AFP photo)

desire to negotiate between the two as has happened."

He said a public meeting between him and Israeli leaders is possible before a peace treaty is signed. "It's not a taboo. There is nothing to prevent that," he said.

"Whenever the time is ripe ... I would be willing to

meet with the Israeli leadership, King Hussein said.

"We're on the verge of beginning serious negotiations that hopefully could lead to the establishment of

peace," added the King, who repeated that a meeting with Israeli leaders before a treaty is signed was "very possible, very possible."

(Continued on page 5)

Mubarak to Jericho in July — report

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak wants to visit the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho in early July and meet there with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, an Israeli daily reported Tuesday. The Jerusalem Post, citing Israeli sources, said a likely date for a Mubarak visit to Jericho was July 2.

Amer heads for autonomy job

AMMAN (AP) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Tuesday headed for Jericho to take up his duty as education minister in the newly formed Palestine National Authority. Yasser Amer, a native of Hebron, is the third senior PLO official to travel to the autonomous zones since Israel granted the Palestinians self-rule in Jericho and Gaza Strip in May.

Gaza police arrest dissidents

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian police have arrested four guerrillas, two on charges of killing a Jewish settler last year, according to a group of dissident fighters. Two cousins, Amr and Rajah Abu Sitta, are accused by Israel of killing a Gaza settler on March 8, 1993. "We appeal to the Palestinian authority to release those who our enemies want to kill," said the Abu Rish group.

U.N. inspectors head for Iraq

BAHRAIN (AP) — A team of U.N. nuclear inspectors left Tuesday for Iraq to install a video surveillance system, part of monitoring to stop Baghdad developing weapons of mass destruction. The 14-member team is to spend about two weeks in Iraq. Under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire Iraq is prohibited from developing nuclear, chemical or biological weapons as well as long-range missiles.

Algeria sets up tip-off lines

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's army-backed rulers, fighting militants bent on overthrowing them, have set up anti-terror tip-off lines and urged members of the public to be the eyes and ears of the security forces. State radio and the government-controlled newspaper El Mondjaid, monitored in Tunis, listed hot-lines to the security services and said members of the public should report "all suspicious movements."

Sanaa forces step up Aden artillery assault

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN troops mounting fierce offensives to capture the south's bastion of Aden killed 16 southern Yemeni soldiers and three civilians on Tuesday, hospital officials said.

But southern forces said they repulsed each drive since Sunday and that they killed or wounded more than 1,100 northern troops.

Katynsha rockets and shells slammed into the city's northern suburbs overnight Monday and early Tuesday, killing three civilians and wounding 19, hospital officials said. Another was wounded in the central Crater district.

Several shells exploded at the airport, throwing up clouds of dust and sand, but warplanes continued to take off on sorties to front lines. Heavy artillery battles raged on the fronts some 20 kilometres from the besieged port city, leaving 16 southern soldiers dead and 71 wounded.

The roar of multiple rocket launchers could be heard in the city as northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdul-

lah Saleh launched non-stop offensives for the third day to break through southern defences.

More than 1,100 northern soldiers and officers were killed or wounded as they tried to advance on Aden on Sunday and Monday, a southern military spokesman said. The figure could not be independently confirmed.

Northern forces then launched offensives on three fronts late Monday — At Abyan, 25 kilometres to the east of here, at Sabar, 20 kilometres and Bir Ahmad, 20 kilometres to the north-east.

But the offensives were countered without northern troops gaining ground, correspondents reported from the front line.

Mediation efforts by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi last week failed to produce a truce in the Yemen civil war, despite announcements by north and south that they would comply with a Security Council ceasefire call.

Five previous ceasefires have failed and each side blamed the other for their collapse.

In Sanaa, Deputy Prime

Minister Abdul Wahab Al Anissi met U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes and discussed "efforts to solidify the ceasefire," the official news agency Saba reported.

Last week, the government said it had informed the United States and Saudi Arabia it was delaying an all-out attack on Aden, pending the outcome of peace efforts.

The south, meanwhile, has been using its air force to hurt the north by attacking vital installations.

On Sunday, southern fighter-bombers attacked the main power station at the ancient coffee port of Mocha, killing 19 people and injuring 45, the government has said.

Bombs hit workers' quarters at the plant and started a fire at three nearby storage fuel tanks, each with the capacity of 8,000 tonnes, said Ahmad Al Aini, general manager for the state-owned Yemen Electricity Authority.

He said Tuesday that the seaside plant should be operational within a few days.

The warring Yemeni parties wasted a chance for peace by allowing Mr. Ibrahim's mission to fail, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Itihad said.

Prisoners launch strike, urge Arafat to delay visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinians held prisoner by Israel began a hunger strike on Tuesday demanding that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat put off a visit to Palestinian self-rule areas until they are set free.

Israeli officials said up to 800 of some 2,500 Palestinians held by the Israeli prison authority refused to eat. An army spokesman was checking whether any of an estimated 3,500 army-held prisoners were also on strike.

Palestinians working for the release of prisoners said at a news conference in Bethlehem the prisoners had written a letter to Mr. Arafat asking him to put off a planned visit to Gaza and Jericho.

"We appeal to you in the names of the martyrs to cancel your visit to Jericho and Gaza and not to carry out such a step without the release of all of the prisoners because we don't want the image of the leader to be shaken in the hearts of our people," they quoted the letter as saying.

In Jericho, about 150 protesters threatening hunger strikes and a renewed uprising urged the PLO to press for the unconditional release of all Palestinians in Israeli jails.

Carrying banners and Palestinian flags, the group which included freed prisoners marched to the self-rule authority headquarters and for almost an hour blocked Palestinian cars as well as vehicles with Israeli license plates.

An Israeli army van waiting in line eventually passed through with no incident. "The Palestinian leadership must shoulder its responsibility toward our fellow prisoners," said one of the banners.

The prisoners themselves put out a statement on Monday proclaiming an indefinite hunger strike under the slogan: "No peace without unconditional release."

They called for sit-ins outside Red Cross offices and for a hunger strike outside the New Palestinian Authority in Jericho.

Jailed members of Mr.

Arafat's Fateh movement issued their own statement urging a boycott of celebrations planned to mark the return of the PLO chairman to the autonomous areas.

In Bethlehem, Ahmad Al Sayad, a lawyer representing prisoners, said: "The responsibility for what is happening falls on Arafat and those who are negotiating the prisoner issue in the peace talks."

"The prisoners have a right to strike to demand their release."

Issa Karaka, chairman of the association, said: "The main reason for this is Israel's sending of prisoners to Jericho to serve out their time."

He criticised the Palestinian leadership for agreeing to this condition in the May 4 agreement which launched autonomy.

According to the association, Israel has freed only a handful of some 40 women prisoners, no Arabs with Israeli citizenship, no foreigners charged with security

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin wants top-level Arab meetings

OCCUPIED Golan Heights (Agencies) — With artillery pieces and tanks spread out nearby, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reviewed a war exercise on the frontier with Syria Tuesday and urged Damascus to rekindle peace negotiations.

Even though the Golan Heights has been quiet for 20 years, Israeli officials warned the border is still a flash point and called for intense U.S. shuttle diplomacy before it is too late.

"The time has come for Syria to start to realise that the best way to negotiate peace with Israel is to sit face to face on a higher level than was done until now," Mr. Rabin said, standing among dozens of camouflage tents, ringed by artillery pieces, personnel carriers and tanks.

"I can't see how a real agreement, a peace treaty, can be reached without meeting on a higher level than we do today," he added.

The three-week manoeuvres on the dusty hills overlooking the Sea of

Galilee tested the length of time it takes for troops to properly deploy tents and guns.

Although it was a routine exercise, Mr. Rabin's presence at the site was a message that a negotiating deadlock with Syria might prove dangerous.

Mr. Rabin also said Tuesday he was prepared to meet King Hussein "anywhere any time."

The comment came a day after King Hussein said in Washington: "The opportunity will come sometime soon for a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian officials."

But the King refused to confirm or deny rumours of secret meetings in London with Mr. Rabin and other Israelis.

"I will be very pleased to meet King Hussein and other Jordanian leaders anywhere and at any time for the good of peace between Israel and Jordan," Mr. Rabin said.

Talks between the two countries are expected to resume next month and to be

held alternatively in Jordan and Israel for the first time.

King Hussein, asked about the prospect of a meeting with Israeli leaders, said: "I have never been afraid of daylight ... and I hope that the opportunity will come sometime soon for a meeting at the highest possible level between Jordanians and Israeli officials."

"And I hope that the beginning that we will see in the very coming future will enable us to progress to the point where such a meeting will be held," the King told reporters.

Reacting on Tuesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told American Jewish fundraisers: "I welcome the declaration of King Hussein that was done yesterday, that he foresees the day, not too far away, when we should meet..."

"The time has come for the benefit of the Jordanian people and Israelis, and in a way for Palestinians, that Jordan and ourselves clear the table. We can agree all issues:

land, borders, water and economic enterprises ... there is not deep hostility," he said.

"In my opinion if the Jordanians will cut off their linkage with the Syrians it will facilitate even the Syrians to go ahead."

"We have to reach an overall agreement but we cannot do it by overall negotiations. We have to negotiate with every side separately."

Meanwhile, Syria rejected Israel's accusations of in flexibility and counter-charged it was the Jewish state's obstinacy that was hampering U.S. efforts to forge peace in the region.

The comments on Radio Damascus were apparently in response to those made earlier in the day by Mr. Rabin.

Syria's rejoinder was to say that Israel's continued obstinacy have "blocked Washington peace talks and foiled U.S. peace efforts."

"Syria will not be dragged to secret and individual negotiations with Israel and will not change its public and well-known stands," it said.

Israeli jets raid S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli fighter-bombers rocketed resistance bases in South Lebanon for a third straight day Tuesday, heightening tension on the only active Arab-Israeli war front.

Police said the raiding jets blasted hilltop strongholds of the Hizbollah near this southern Lebanese market town in two runs spaced over five minutes at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).

They said they had no immediate word on casualties from the bases that also were struck by Israeli warplanes Sunday and Monday.

At least two rockets crashed at Jabal Al Raffih and Lowzeih, key Hizbollah strongholds near Nabatiyeh. Smoke billowed from the targets that were sealed off by guerrillas, police and reporters on the scene said.

Lebanese army positions around Nabatiyeh opened up with anti-aircraft guns but no hits were observed.

The air strike touched off artillery and rocket duels pitting Israeli and surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) gunners against Hizbollah guerrillas along the northern flank of an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, police reported.

They said guerrillas lobbed repeated salvos of Katyusha rockets on the enclave.

U.S. studies different avenues for contacts with North Korea

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States on Tuesday explored ways of contacting North Korea in hopes of resolving their nuclear dispute and did not rule out an unprecedented U.S. mission to Pyongyang.

The White House said the contacts, aimed at verifying commitments which former President Jimmy Carter said the North Koreans made to him, were expected to take place in the next few days.

"We expect and hope to hear back within a couple of days about whether President Carter's understanding of what they said is correct," President Bill Clinton told reporters.

His spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers would not discuss the possibilities but did not deny that one of them was sending a U.S. official to North Korea. This would be a first since the countries have no diplomatic ties.

"The policy has not been made on exactly which channel to pursue," Ms. Myers said.

Asked about sending an envoy to Pyongyang, Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said, "I don't think that is going to be the case, but we are consulting with our allies."

Mr. Carter, who spent four days in Pyongyang last week,

said that the North Koreans were ready to suspend their nuclear programme in return for new high-level talks with the United States on bilateral relations.

Mr. Clinton and other U.S. officials, who suspect the North Koreans of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, said they saw hopeful signs in Mr. Carter's mission but the results needed to be verified officially.

The United States and North Korea have had intermittent contacts through Pyongyang's mission to the United Nations, but Ms. Myers said other avenues were also possible.

"I'm not going to discuss all the options that are under consideration," she said. "There is a well-known (U.N.) existing channel. It's prudent to consider a variety of options before making a decision like that."

"I expect some contacts to happen this week," Ms. Myers said.

The United States has said it was also continuing consultations on possible U.N. sanctions against North Korea for its refusal to allow full international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who left Tuesday for Brussels to attend a signing ceremony for Russia's membership in the Part-

nership for Peace programme, was to discuss the sanctions with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

The Russian scientist who designed the reactor at the centre of the North Korean nuclear crisis charged Tuesday that South Korea, Japan and the United States were trying to discredit North Korea by falsely accusing it of developing nuclear weapons.

Vladislav Kotlov, a top official of the Russian atomic energy ministry, told a news conference that North Korea had not produced nuclear weapons and that the controversy surrounding its facilities was strictly a dispute over the procedure for inspection advocated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He stated that Japan and South Korea were the main protagonists in the campaign to discredit Pyongyang and that they were backed in this by the United States.

Mr. Kotlov, who headed the team of about 40 Soviet builders and engineers who in 1963 set out to build North Korea's only nuclear reactor in what was then a rice field, maintained that Pyongyang's refusal to allow nuclear inspection was its prerogative.

"Each country has the right to decide who and where to allow inspection of its facilities," he said.

U.S. warns of Yemen disaster

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has warned of a humanitarian disaster if northern Yemen forces lay siege to the southern city of Aden and said it would consider such action a violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution.

"The United States is deeply concerned about the continued shelling of Aden and the reported build-up of northern forces for a possible offensive against the city," Deputy State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said in a statement.

She noted that the Republic of Yemen had given repeated assurances that it would not lay siege to Aden, and said "there can be no justification for the humanitarian disaster and large number of civilian casualties that would inevitably result from such action."

"The United States has made clear from the outset of this crisis that we are opposed to the imposition of unity by force (and) we would view with utmost seriousness continued attacks on Aden or a move to occupy the city by northern forces," she said.

"Further military action, such as shelling of civilian areas by northern forces, will be viewed as a clear violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 924," she said.

Resolution 924, adopted unanimously June 1, called for an immediate ceasefire in Yemen's civil war, urged an immediate return to negotiations and asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to send a fact-finding mission to the area to assess the prospects for renewed dialogue.

Northern Yemeni gunners pounded Aden's marketplace Monday in the fiercest shelling of the southern port since civil war erupted nearly seven weeks ago, killing at least 18 people. The outbreak of war ruptured four years of union between northern and southern Yemen, separate states before 1990.

U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi met northern and southern officials separately in Cairo Sunday but failed to arrange a way to enforce a truce between the two armies.

Sanaa, the northern capital, regards the war as an internal Yemeni issue.

In her statement, Ms. Shelly urged the two sides to call an immediate ceasefire and hold to it during a period of negotiations with Mr. Brahimi.

"Terrified inhabitants of Aden prayed for their lives Monday as northern shells rained down on the southern city where shelters have room for just over one per cent of the population."

"Those who could flee have already left, those who have stayed have no choice but to place their trust in God," said Saleh Yousef, the owner of a cafe where three clients were killed by a shell while drinking tea.

Mr. Saleh was taking advantage of a lull in the bombardment Monday to clean the blood stains from the cafe tables.

A total of sixteen civilians were killed and 62 wounded overnight Sunday when Katyusha rockets slammed into Aden's residential areas close to the northern front-line, including the Sheikh Osman suburb Mr. Saleh has his cafe.

Rockets also exploded in the Balgis school nearby, where twenty refugee families had crammed in for shelter since fleeing their homes in areas captured by northern troops.

Three refugees, including a woman, were killed and six more wounded.

In the patch of ground which served as a playground, bare-foot children played looking for shrapnel from the deadly shells.

The adults cleared up the debris from two destroyed classrooms, piling up twisted chairs and shattered tables in a corner of the yard.

Prosecutor reports Mubarak murder plots Lawyers' hunger-strike picks up new momentum

CAIRO (AP) — Militants on trial for trying to kill Egypt's top law-enforcer also were involved in two assassination plots against President Hosni Mubarak, a prosecutor alleged Monday.

Among directives to the defendants, Lieutenant-Colonel Amr Nassef said during a five-hour hearing, were two orders "to assassinate the president of the republic."

Three of the 17 defendants charged with attempting to kill Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi last August and with killing eight people confessed to trying twice to detonate bombs as Mr. Mubarak's motorcade passed, the prosecutor said. He said both attempts were foiled by sheer chance as the assailants missed the procession.

In August's attack against General Alfi, four people were killed and Gen. Alfi and 14 others wounded when a bomb on a motorcycle exploded, followed by machine-gun fire.

In February, the fundamentalist opposition newspaper Al Shaab disclosed a secret military trial for seven army conscripts accused of trying to assassinate Mr. Mubarak in Sidi Barrani airport on Egypt's northwest coast. He was there to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Mr. Mubarak's name was not mentioned in that case. He was referred to as a "high state official."

Tuesday morning's three state-owned Cairo newspapers omitted any reference to a plot against the president in their reports of the trial session. One paper's reporter said the omissions were deliberate.

In Monday's session, the fourth since the trial began on June 5, the prosecutor demanded capital punishment for five defendants

hanging in Egypt — and hard labour for the rest. Two men remain at large including one of the key five.

The men belong to the militant group Jihad, which was responsible for killing President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

In addition to murder and attempted assassination, the defendants face charges of trying forcibly to overthrow the anti-terrorism law.

Among their victims was a key witness in a failed attempt last November on the life of Prime Minister Attef Sedki. On Feb. 4, Dr. Sayed Yehia was shot dead in his automobile showroom hours before he was scheduled to testify in the trial of ministers' attackers. Three bystanders also were killed in the attack on Yehia's car dealership.

Monday's session was adjourned until Saturday to give time for defence lawyers to prepare.

Hunger-strike

A leading Cairo attorney completed a third day without food Monday and vowed to starve himself to death unless the Egyptian government cleared up how a colleague died in police custody and releases lawyers imprisoned protesting the death.

Attorney Abdul Aziz Mohammad, head of the Cairo branch of Egypt's 127,000-member lawyers' syndicate, spoke to the associated press from the downtown headquarters that has been a focus of protest lawyers tried to stage a mid-May demonstration there.

Police clubs and tear-gas abruptly ended the demonstration protesting the death last April of Abdul Harith Madani, a prominent Muslim fundamentalist lawyer. Police said he died of asthma, civil rights workers and Madani's colleagues suspect he was tortured to death.

During the melee that followed the demonstration, police arrested more than 40 lawyers. Nineteen remain in a Cairo prison.

Mr. Mohammad said the government's refusal to release the detained lawyers and to explain officially Madani's death are what led to his hunger strike over protests from colleagues and family.

"There is no alternative," said a visibly worn Mohammad. "All other roads are blocked. We tried other ways, but they were not fruitful."

Lawyers have demanded repeatedly that the government's state prosecutor release an official pathology report on Madani, who was arrested on the night of April 26 and died the next day in a Cairo hospital, Madani was an active defender of accused extremists.

The attorney general, Ragaa Al Araby, reportedly confirmed that a preliminary pathologist's report showed "the death was criminal" but withheld the report until receiving a "more valid" final one.

Mr. Mohammad reiterated a common belief among lawyers that the tardiness in issuing the report means Madani's death "is for sure criminal."

Responding to charges that lawyers of the Muslim fundamentalist-dominated syndicate are "inciting anti-government sentiment," Mr. Mohammad said: "I refuse violence. My position is an expression of my rejection of the blatant violence of the government."

Mr. Mohammad, who suffers from diabetes, said prosecutors visited him Sunday and asked that he stop the hunger-strike but he refused. Attorneys surrounded him as he spoke, several vowing to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rebels claim 5,000 Sudanese troops killed

CAIRO (AFP) — The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has killed at least 5,000 Khartoum government troops and wounded 15,000 so far this year in its war for autonomy of the south of the country, it said in its latest weekly bulletin received here Monday. The SPLA's Middle East representative Daniel Kodj, questioned by AFP, refused to give any figures for the guerrilla movement's losses. He said 600 troops had been killed on June 8 as the government army was advancing after capturing Paderi, southeast of Juba in a battle in which Khartoum admitted losing 47 men. Mr. Kodj also claimed that in the same week the army killed 200 of its own men in shelling what were mistakenly thought to be SPLA positions. Many casualties had also been caused by minefields, he added. A Sudanese opposition source in Cairo said Egypt had allowed some wounded soldiers to be treated in its hospitals for humanitarian reasons, despite the poor relations between the two neighbours. In January the Sudanese government launched its largest offensive since the beginning of the current civil war in 1983, with the objective of cutting off the SPLA's supply links with Kenya and Uganda. Since the war began between the forces of the north and those of the south between 500,000 and 1.3 million civilians, all from the south, have been killed, according to humanitarian organisations.

Rushdie wants his house in India back

NEW DELHI (AP) — Salman Rushdie, the India-born author hiding from extremists who have vowed to kill him, has filed a petition claiming a small estate in the Himalayan foothills, a newspaper reported Monday. The petition asks the high court in Himachal Pradesh state to demand that the state government vacate the resort cottage and one acre estate in the town of Solan, the Times of India said. Mr. Rushdie claimed that the house was presented to him by his father, Maulvi Anis Ahmad Rushdie, on July 4, 1969. Mr. Rushdie denied that his father had migrated to Pakistan when the subcontinent was partitioned by departing British colonialists in 1947. Many Muslims left India then to live in Pakistan, and their abandoned property was either kept by the government or given to Hindus who left Pakistan for India. The author, who has lived in Britain for years, did not indicate that he would move to Solan, a sleepy town in forested hills 300 kilometres north of New Delhi. Mr. Rushdie went into hiding in 1989 after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran declared the novel "Satanic Verses" blasphemous and ordered his death. Iranian religious leaders have put a \$3 million bounty on Mr. Rushdie's head, forcing him to remain in hiding most of the time and to travel around with bodyguards.

Detention order issued against Kurdish deputies

ANKARA (AP) — A chief prosecutor for a state security court issued a detention order Monday for two Kurdish deputies whose party was shut down last week on charges of supporting Kurdish separatism. Prosecutor Nusret Demiral, who sent six other Kurdish deputies to jail on similar charges in March, issued the order. The constitutional court closed down the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party in a verdict that ended the parliamentary membership of 13 party deputies. Six Democracy Party deputies fled abroad before the court's verdict last week. Mr. Demiral said he would ask for their extradition from the European countries. The two deputies ordered detained Monday, Selim Sadak and Sedat Yutuk, said in a joint statement that their parliamentary immunity was still valid since the court's verdict had not yet been published in the official gazette. The Democracy Party had been accused of having links with the Kurdish guerrillas who fight for autonomy in the southeastern region in a war which has killed 12,000 people over the past 10 years.

Algerian premier to visit France this week

PARIS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi will meet French officials in Paris this week to discuss his country's ailing economy and internal strife, the foreign ministry said. Mr. Sifi will meet President Francois Mitterrand on Wednesday and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Thursday, ministry spokesman Richard Doule told a daily news briefing. The Algerian leader will arrive from Brussels where he was to meet Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene on Tuesday and European Commission President Jacques Delors on Wednesday. A team of commission officials visited Algiers last week to open exploratory talks with Algerian authorities on a possible partnership agreement with the European Union (EU), similar to accords currently being negotiated with Morocco and Tunisia. European Union officials say the EU's 12 members are divided on the usefulness of extensive new aid to Algeria before there is firmer evidence that reforms there are working. France and the commission are keen to press on with initiatives that will encourage moderate Algerians faced with the risk of destabilisation posed by widespread violence and conflict between militants and the country's rulers.

Peace agreement divides Aided's group

NAIROBI (AFP) — A Somali group on Monday assailed Mohammad Farah Aided's faction for signing a peace agreement with the son-in-law of former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre. The Somali Patriotic Movement, which is part of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance, said that by signing the agreement, Gen. Aided contravened the alliance's constitution and objectives. "It is an accord that infringes (on) the principal constituency of the Somali National Alliance, conspiring (against) the cause and the struggle of its supporters," the movement said in a statement. It said the alliance, an umbrella organisation of various factions which fought and toppled Mr. Siad Barre in 1991, had vowed never to associate with members of the former regime, including his son-in-law, Mohammad Said Hersi. The peace pact, signed in the southern Somali port city of Kismayo on Saturday, was aimed at strengthening an existing ceasefire agreement.

Text of comments by King and Christopher

Following is the full text of remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and His Majesty prior to their meeting at the Department of State on Monday:

Secretary Christopher: Good morning. I'm very honoured today to welcome to the State Department King Hussein, who is an old friend in so many different ways.

We're at an important moment, I think, in the history of the Middle East. The recent bilateral discussions here between Israel and Jordan, with the participation of the United States, indicates there's room for very real progress in the Middle East. I've congratulated the King on that progress and urged that we would do everything that we could to try to assist in that situation.

Jordan has stood for progress in the Middle East peace situation. Their bilateral track, I think, is one out of which there are great opportunities for the two countries to work together.

It's always such a great pleasure to welcome the King here. We have many items to discuss. There are defence needs, the economic situation in Jordan, the path toward democratisation in Jordan. We have many items on which we have common interest, and of course many items on which we admire the King's leadership. So your Majesty, it's a great honour to have you here.

King Hussein: Mr. Secretary, thank you very much indeed for your kind words of welcome. I'm very pleased with the opportunity to meet with you today, sir — and in the next few days to meet with the president as well, and many of our friends here in Washington.

I am indeed optimistic as far as the future is concerned, and our quest for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We are very happy indeed that on the Jordanian-Israeli track we are about to begin to address the problems that were a part of the agenda earlier on. We appreciate, certainly, the role of our friends in supporting us in our efforts to arrive at this point.

Question: Your Highness (sic), when will you finally meet an Israeli leader face to face in open, broad daylight? When will you come to claim Jerusalem? Do you accept

the Israeli position that Jerusalem is open religiously but closed politically?

King Hussein: I've never been afraid of daylight sir; in fact I've always tried living in daylight. I hope the opportunity will come sometime soon for meetings at the highest possible level between Jordanian and Israeli officials. We hope that the beginning we see will enable us to progress to the point where such a meeting will be held.

Question: Isn't Israel not doubt waiting for Hafez Al Assad of Syria, your Highness (sic)?

King Hussein: I hope that we will see progress on all tracks; but as far as we are concerned, we are looking after our own dimension of the problem. We started at the same point, and as our brothers in Syria are negotiating, we are negotiating as well. We stand sincerely ready to address all the problems that were worked out in the agenda and agreed upon here in Washington.

Question: If you reach an agreement with the Israelis, your Majesty, would you sign before the Syrians and the Lebanese sign, as has been stated before?

King Hussein: This is a rather difficult question to answer. I would like to say Jordan exercises its sovereignty and its right to deal with its problems and to seek a resolution of these problems. At the same time we are more anxious to see progress on all tracks to achieve a comprehensive peace.

So I hope this will be the opportunity.

Question: Mr. Secretary, what about peace with Syria? Nothing seems to be happening? The Syrians are saying they are waiting for answers from you; the Americans are saying they are waiting for answers from Syrians. What is going on? Is there any hope for real progress this summer?

Secretary Christopher: Yes, I think there is hope for progress because both the leaders of both countries seem to me to be very serious about the negotiations. I would expect that before the summer is out that we will see some progress made. (There are many difficult questions on that track, as there are on all the tracks; but when the leaders are seriously engaged, when they are wrestling with hardest underlying problems — the threshold

issues — I think it's natural that it will take some time. But I'm not at all discouraged about the fact that we can make some progress. I agree with the King that it's necessary to see this in a comprehensive sense, and to expect all the tracks to be moving forward — not, perhaps, at exactly the same pace, but nevertheless making comprehensive progress.

Question: Mr. Secretary, do you personally favour opening that AID office in East Jerusalem?

Secretary Christopher: I don't have any comment on that at all.

Question: You mentioned Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process, and you've also in previous statements described it as central. Tell us what you mean by "central," and what is the United States willing to do to lift the physical and mental siege imposed around Jordan for the past four years?

Secretary Christopher: I think the best thing the United States can do is to play its role as one of the co-sponsors of the peace process and to encourage the parties to make progress. There are still, obviously, the enemies of

peace in the region. We see tragic episodes take place; but nevertheless, in an overall sense, I do see progress as being made.

The role of the United States will be to facilitate the negotiations between the parties, to try to serve the role that we have served from the very beginning. That's the best long-term role for the United States.

Question: Your Majesty, can I confirm rumours that you met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin two weeks ago in London?

King Hussein: I am not confirming or denying rumours.

Question: Mr. Secretary, are you going to the Middle East soon? Why did you cancel your visit this week?

Secretary Christopher: I decided not to go at the present time; but I never had any plans, so you can't cancel a visit that's never been laid on. I will probably be going to the Middle East some time before the summer is out. I'll have to find the right time. I have a very heavy travel schedule... I can't tell you exactly when I will be going, but I expect to be going sometime in the relatively near future.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Dr. Khalid Mawardi 743500

Dr. Jamal Jbara 847351

Dr. Yousef Samour 615648

Dr. Issam Asmar 890504

Firma pharmacy 661912

Fordows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Al Salame pharmacy 626730

Yacoub pharmacy 646949

Shmoukhi pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 626762

Al Ouda pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Al Ali Shogairi 24640

Al Ouda pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalid Abu al'ad 985000

Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Intermediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 669390

Public Security Department 605800

Hot Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality 637111

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 891228

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 610230

Central Amman Telephone 637111

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 891228

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Aklich Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafias, J. Amman 636140

Pelastine, Shmoukhi 6691714

Shmoukhi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajirin 77101/2

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/25

Army, Marika 891611/76

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674154

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980632

Al-Hamra Modern Hospital (09)980632

IBZID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Iron Al-Nafes Hospital (02)271700

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532000, 5 where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:15 Larnaca (RJ)

10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

11:10 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:35 London (RJ)

18:25 Istanbul (RJ)

19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

19:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:30 Rome (RJ)

00:40 Beirut (RJ)

01:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 Damascus (AZ)

11:25 Larnaca (CY)

11:30 Jeddah (SA)

13:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

15:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)

16:20 Algiers (AF)

18:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:15 Beirut (ME)

21:30 Doha (QF)

22:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:30 Rome (RJ)

11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:35 Berlin, London (RJ)

12:40 Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)

12:40 Colombo (RJ)

20:30 Beirut (RJ)

20:35 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)

21:05 Riyadh (RJ)

21:10 New Delhi (RJ)

22:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Beirut (RJ)

09:15 Beirut (ME)

09:15 Cairo (MS)

12:15 Larnaca (CY)

13:40 Jeddah (SU)

14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:35 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)

17:20 Algiers, Sharjah (AF)

20:30 Dhaka (EM)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kilo

Apple 550/400

Apricot 500/300

Banana 600/400

Benana (Mukannar) 600/400

Cabbage 150/100

Carrot 40/30

Corn 300/200

Cherry 1300/800

Cauliflower 1200/700

Cucumbers (large) 170/100

Cucumbers (small) 150/100

Eggplant 140/80

Garlic 160/80

Grapes 700/500

Lemon 900/600

Marrow (large) 300/200

Marrow (small) 150/100

Mushrooms 120/80

Onion 120/80

Onion (dry) 420/320

Sweet Melon 180/80

Pepper (hot) 450/350

Pepper (sweet) 300/200

Potato 300/200

Peaches 350/250

Tomato 700/500

String beans 550/400

Watermelon 120/80

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Two-Two

17:30 N.B.A. sport

18:30 News in French

18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire

19:00 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Too Close for Comfort

21:00 A Kind of Magic

21:30 Daily summary of football matches

22:00 News in English

23:00 World Cup: Romania vs Switzerland

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr

05:25 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duha

12:37 Dhuhur

16:18 Asr

19:49 Maghrib

21:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Smeilich, Tel. 810740

Assumption of God Church, Tel. 62785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather will prevail with winds westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 17/32

Agaba 24/39

Desert 15/35

Jordan Valley 22/38

Jordan, India discuss possibility of boosting volume of trade

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is interested in promoting cooperation in trade, agriculture and industry with India with which the Kingdom maintains very strong relations, Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif said Tuesday.

Speaking after a meeting with visiting Indian Minister of Agriculture Balram Jakhar, Mr. Ben Tarif said that India is one of the main importers of Jordanian phosphate and potash and the Jordanian markets can absorb Indian-grown soybeans and rice among other products.

The Indian minister, who arrived earlier Tuesday for a two-day visit to Jordan, was reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as discussing means of boosting the volume of exchanged trade and cooperation in agriculture.

Mr. Ben Tarif was re-

ported as saying that discussion with the Indian official covered prospects of cooperation in launching joint ventures in the fertiliser industry and the exchange of expertise in farming, as well as the training of Jordanian agricultural cadres in India.

The Indian minister extended an invitation to Mr. Ben Tarif to visit his country and attend a ceremony marking the opening of the International Agricultural Fair to be organised in India next March.

The Indian minister, who is a highly influential member of the government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, earlier had a meeting with Minister of Supply Adel Qndah and discussed the prospect of India's exports of frozen meat to Jordan.

Before April, 1994, there was a ban on Indian meat exports due to the mad cow disease that had been rampant in some parts of Indian subcontinent, but the ban has

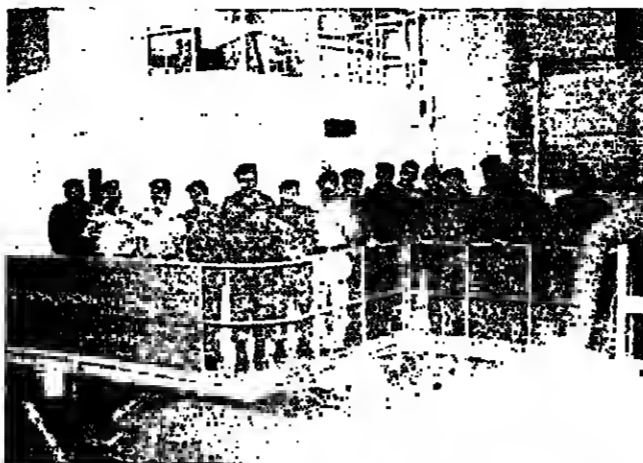
now been lifted, according to Petra.

Discussion at the meeting also covered increasing India's imports of Jordanian fertilisers, phosphate and potash, according to the agency.

Mr. Jakhar expressed hope that his country would increase the amount of imports of Jordanian phosphate and fertilisers in exchange for Indian exports of wheat, rice and milk, as well as animal feed to the Kingdom, noting that India's food production can cover Jordan's need of these commodities.

Mr. Qndah said that the Ministry of Supply can purchase these commodities from India through tenders in which Indian firms can participate.

The Indian minister is later expected to visit the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Fertiliser Corporation and will meet with Jordanian businessmen.



TECHNICAL EXCHANGE: A team from the Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein Military Technical School Tuesday visits Royal Jordanian installations, including the maintenance workshop and the training simulator installed at the Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo)

Computer to help speed up passports department's services

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team from the Computer Technology, Training and Industrial Studies Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently involved in the process of programming the various functions of the Passports and Civil Status Department with a view to helping the department speed up and upgrade its public services, according to a RSS official Monday.

Hussein Qawasmeh said that the implementation of the computer programming project followed a three-year study, by RSS teams, of the department's needs in various sections.

The RSS, which is implementing the project at the cost of JD 42,000, has designed a data system for the various types of work carried out by the department and work has started this month on the application of the system, the RSS official noted.

Mr. Qawasmeh was commenting on a statement Sunday by the Passports and Civil Status Department director, Nasouh Muhieddin, who said that once the project has been completed, a citizen would be able to renew a passport or get a family book in no more than two hours.

By contrast, it takes a whole day at present to complete the work and more dur-

ing the summer time when the department is normally flooded by people wishing to renew their passports and acquire other documents.

Under the new system, each citizen will have his own file from birth to death and the file will bear the national code number, enabling the department officials to speed up the service to the public, said Mr. Muhieddin.

Through this system, he added, the department hopes to facilitate the preparation of lists of voters for parliamentary elections in each governorate by providing accurate information about the age, marital status and other vital information about every citizen.

Other government departments, like the Ministry of Education, will also benefit from the department's information concerning students, he added.

Concerning Jordanian expatriates living abroad, Mr. Muhieddin said that they can contact the Jordanian embassy in the country where they reside for passport renewals and receive the reply within 48 hours.

Mr. Muhieddin said any person requesting such service but failing to get it within two days can call the department on tel. 638583, 840550, 644494 or 627725 noting that fax machines have been installed in all the department branches throughout the Kingdom.



Getzner company opens offices in Amman

The Austrian Getzner Company Monday held a reception to celebrate the opening of its office in Amman.

The Getzner Company, established in 1818, is considered one of the world's best known companies specialised in manufacturing high-quality fabrics, plastic and chemical material, as well as other products.

It is the first Austrian company to start activities in the Middle East, particularly in Jordan, with the

aim of benefiting the region through bringing in high-tech material unknown in the region thus far. The company plans to establish industrial and investment projects that will benefit all.

The opening ceremony of the company's offices was attended by the Austrian ambassador to Jordan, several officials, industrialists, businessmen from the Kingdom and abroad, and media representatives.

Japan invites applications for aid

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Japanese embassy in Amman is inviting applications for financial assistance from non-governmental organisations, research institutes, hospitals and local councils under a small-scale grant assistance programme that helps grassroots development projects.

Apply titled "Grassroots Grant Assistance" (GRGA), the programme is part of the Tokyo government's ongoing aid to Jordan.

Japan is a consistent donor to Jordan and has helped the Kingdom through the severe crises it faced in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

With the decline in Jordan's per capita income in dollar terms, following the devaluation of the dinar in 1989, the Kingdom now qualifies for some of the grant programmes extended by Japan to developing countries, Japanese spokesmen have said.

T. Shinohara of the embassy of Japan said that under the GRGA programme applicants could seek as much as \$100,000 for a single project, but that the

ideal amount would be around \$40,000.

"Under an agreement we have signed with the Ministry of Planning, the embassy could take the initiative in choosing and implementing the project," Mr. Shinohara told the Jordan Times.

He noted that the total amount extended under the same programme the year 1993 was \$205,000, but that this could be increased this year if the embassy found deserving projects.

One of the key conditions of the programme is that the aid is not available for the administrative costs of the recipient organisation.

"As long as it is a grassroots development project, any project may be the subject of GRGA," said a statement released by the embassy. At the same time, applicants for projects in primary health care and education, public welfare and the environment, development of women and poverty relief would be given preferential treatment, the statement said.

"Projects for supporting the Palestinians refugees are also considered favourably, since attention should be paid not only to those Palestinians in the occupied

territories but also to those who live outside," it said.

"GRGA has gained a high reputation among developing countries because of its speedy and flexible realisation of assistance to grassroots development projects," said the statement. "The amount of financial assistance for each project varies from several hundred dollars to several tens of thousands, according to the requirements of the project."

The embassy received 66 applications for a total of \$3.7 million during 1993, out of which four applications worth \$205,000 of allocations were made. These included the setting up of a social development centre at Al Kireh, Irbid Governorate (\$76,000), medical equipment for maternity care (the Jordan National Red Crescent Society) — \$48,700, a "Mothers' Bakery" (the Young Men's Christian Association of Jordan) — \$22,900 and equipment for a clinic at the Beqaa Camp — \$57,200.

Applications submitted in 1993 are carried forward for consideration during the 1994 programme, it said. New applicants should contact the embassy of Japan for application forms.

Rotary Club meets

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein Tuesday deputised for Her Royal Highness Princess Basma in attending an Amman Rotary Club lunch where she heard a review of the club's activities and a lecture on world meteorology delivered by the head of the Department of Meteorology Dr. Agil Abanda.

The Young Women Muslim Association (YWMA) Centre for Special Education near Amman is currently benefiting from a JD 25,000 donation that came from the club in 1994 and which will be used to partly finance the equipment and machinery used at the YWMA centre that trains physically handicapped children to work in ceramics, wood and pottery, said the Club's President Suleiman Al Far.

Noting that the Rotary Club in Amman annually finances different projects, Mr. Far told the audience that JD 25,000 were donated in the past year towards the establishment of the Amal Cancer Centre near the University of Jordan and contributed towards the restoration of an archaeological site to Dana Wild Life Reserve near Tafleh.

Dr. Abanda also talked at the meeting, which took place at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, outlining part of the activities of his department and speaking about the world environment situation.

Artists draw the 'one dimension'

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ah'ad Art Gallery in Amman is featuring a collective exhibition entitled "The One Dimension" which features the work of 10 Iraqi artists.

The idea for the One Dimension exhibit was conceived almost 25 years ago as an attempt to break away from the traditions of the art schools of Europe, which emphasised a strict adherence to the rules of perspective, according to Ah'ad Director Mahmoud Obaidi, who is one of the exhibition's participating artists.

The exhibit at the Ah'ad blends a group of both senior artists and newer ones from Iraq's art scene.

Shakir Hassan Al Said, one other participant, conceived of the "one dimension only" idea in 1968 and organised its first exhibition in Baghdad in 1972. Mr. Obaidi told the Jordan Times. The display at the Ah'ad is the fourth "One Dimension" exhibition and the first one out-

side of Baghdad, he said. Among the most intriguing works are those of Karim Risan, which are a deliberate attempt to place the viewer in the ancient pre-Islamic Mesopotamia.

Mr. Risan's paintings are textured in a style which recalls the millennia-old mudbrick tablets of Sumer and Babylon, and their contents blend hieroglyphs and man-beasts etched with calculated crudeness to suggest a primeval, mythic past.

Also commendable are the calligraphic works of Isam Adham and Mohammad Ali Shakir, who both blend their graceful texts over subtly blended backgrounds.

Mr. Shakir, who works in print, has a special sense of delicacy and intricacy which sets him apart.

The exhibition, which began on June 15, is scheduled to last for two weeks.

Other artists in the exhibition are: Khalid Khrais, Salim Al Dabbagh, Hana's Mallalah, Iman Abdullah, Adnan Al Shareef and Issam Tantawi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Arabic language video series of World Cup football matches entitled "World Cup USA 1994" at the American Center auditorium (4:00-5:00 p.m.).
- ★ Film in English entitled "Suddenly...The Past Summer" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Seminar in Arabic entitled "The Role of Nature Protection Clubs in Saving Our Nature" by Ahla Ayoun and Maker Abu Ja'far at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A painting exhibition by Iraqi painters the Pioneers Group at Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra Tel. 644451, at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeh on the Goethe-Institut at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sophia Ziadeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ah'ad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.
- ★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

Glass firm to be revamped, to resume work this year

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Glass Industries will resume production before the end of this year after several months of uncertainty over its future resulting from heavy losses since it began operations in 1984, officials and published reports said.

The company closed its plants on Dec. 31, 1993, citing the need for "comprehensive maintenance." Since then reports have been circulating that the government, which owns nearly 60 per cent of the equity, was considering disposing of the firm in its entirety to the private sector.

Despite being the only production facility of its kind and the abundance of raw material (silicate sand) in Jordan, the company failed to make a success of its operations. Experts say that the technology used by the company is obsolete and thus its output, mainly sheet glass, was below international standards.

In the late 1980s and early 90s, the company considered several options to expand and diversify production, but none of the projects was successful.

Sami Abu Tawil, chairman and general manager of the company, was quoted as

saying in the local press that reports that the company was being closed down were not true.

Under a decision adopted by the Council of Ministers, foreign operators would be brought in and "technical changes" will be made in the plant to upgrade it, Mr. Abu Tawil was quoted as saying.

He said he expected that the plant, which was employing around 300 people when it was closed down for maintenance in December, to resume production before the end of this year after the changes have been carried out under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Planning.

Official sources confirmed the account.

Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf visited the plant early this month and promised that the government would seek to address its problems through the right mechanism.

Abdul Majid Shehadeh, financial manager of the company which maintains an office in Amman, declined to reveal the exact amount of accumulated losses of the company. He would only say that "it is a big amount."

Other sources said the losses ran into several millions of dinars.

Mr. Shehadeh said the final accounts of the company for fiscal year 1993 were not finalised and approved by the auditors.

In his published comments, Mr. Abu Tawil said foreign companies as well as Jordanians were interested in investing in the company, whose assets he estimated at between \$35 million and \$40 million.

He did not give details. But the idea, according to the sources, is to expand the capital of the company and let one or more foreign companies come in with the needed technology.

The Jordan Glass Industries was launched in 1974 with a JD1 million capital. It started production in 1994 and its capital was raised to JD9 million (then worth nearly \$30 million) in 1987.

The government's Jordan Investment Corporation holds 59.4 per cent of the equity and three other government agencies own another nine per cent. Most of the rest of the equity is held by Jordanian companies and individuals.

The formal description of the "main objectives" of the company is "producing, manufacturing and marketing glass in various types, forms, sizes and colours."

French firm to study feasibility of phosphate railway extension

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A French firm has been contracted to conduct a feasibility study on laying a railway linking Al Shidiyeh Phosphate Mine, which is located south of Maan, to the Batn Al Ghoul railway station from where the rail extends to reach Aqaba, according to Mohamad Kreishan, director general of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC).

Mr. Kreishan told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the French company will receive JD 400,000 for its work, which is expected to be completed in six months, but the laying of the railway will take at least one and a half years to finish, at the cost of \$50 million.

The project is designed to boost transportation of phosphates from the Shidiyeh mines, the largest in Jordan, to Aqaba, where it is loaded on vessels, added Mr. Kreishan.

Asked about the sources for financing the project he

said that the World Bank and some foreign organisations have expressed interest in funding the project which is believed to boost phosphate exports.

"Last year, we transported nearly 2.5 million tonnes of phosphate via railways linked to Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines, located some 22 kilometres north of Maan, and via trucks commuting between the Shidiyeh mine and the Batn Al Ghoul station," said Mr. Kreishan.

Noting that the Shidiyeh railway project was significant not only for the corporation's operations but also for boosting phosphates exports, Mr. Kreishan said that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has conducted studies showing that by 1998, the Shidiyeh mine would be the main source of Jordanian phosphate since the amounts extracted at the other two mines would be dwindling.

"We hope to raise to three million tonnes the amount transported annually from the phosphate mines in the

south to Aqaba for export, once the new railway extension, which is estimated to be 50 kilometres long would be operational, added Mr. Kreishan.

Founded in 1975, the ARC has currently a total of 290 kilometres of rail linking the mines with Aqaba. The entire corporation operations are devoted to the JPMC and there are 29 locomotive engines and 400 wagons of capacity ranging between 40 to 45 tonnes to carry the phosphate from the mines.

Mr. Kreishan said that the Gulf crisis and JPMC's marketing problems in the wake of the war have delayed the Shidiyeh extension project until the present.

Despite the difficulties, he said, the ARC has conducted repair work on 210 kilometres of the network, improved the performance of 18 stations along this network extending to Aqaba and succeeded in maintaining the wagons as well as the fleet of trucks that back up the phosphate transportation operation.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة التي تأسست عام 1975 وتعمل تحت إشراف مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

A COLUMNIST in *Al Dustour* Tuesday predicted very positive results to come out soon from the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations and said the Jordanian public should not be surprised at the coming events. In a few days' time, the talks between Jordanian and Israeli teams would move to this region and Israeli negotiators could soon be spotted in Aqaba or Amman because the peace process is now being given a strong impetus by the concerned parties, said Saleh Al Qalab. Saying that there are people who did not take the Madrid peace conference seriously, he said that those people should wake up and realise that the peace process is not a joke or a farce, but a serious effort towards settling outstanding issues and bringing about peace and security to the Middle East.

By Dr. James Zogby

The danger, of course, is that if these extremely high taxes

Now the tobacco industry is beginning to fight back. They are spending millions in advertising to oppose the increasing restrictions, they are donating millions to congressional

If Congress passes this proposed legislation that will ban smoking in all buildings — I may lose my "zone." My Arab visitors and I will then have to choose — either to smoke outside (if even that will be permitted), or to quit.



When the iron curtain and Berlin wall came down in 1989, Mr. Delors was among the first to back early German unification.

plans for when he leaves Brussels, but many expect he will allow himself to be drafted as the Socialist candidate for the French presidential election.

By Aidan Hartley
Reuters

NYANZA, Rwanda — The old traveller's book discarded by looters in a deserted house seemed to offer clues to why genocide has been committed in Rwanda.

Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg, whose portrait shows him resplendent in spiked helmet and waxed moustache, wrote in "Into the Heart of Africa" of fine sport shooting game and a tour to imperial Germany's African colonies.

Also contained in his account, written in 1910, are theories of the racial superiority of the Tutsi tribe over the Hutus.

"The Watutsi are a tall, well-made people with an almost ideal physique," wrote the duke, expressing the belief that they had migrated from Egypt or Arabia.

By contrast the Hutu were "the primitive inhabitants. They are a medium-sized type of people, whose ungainly figures betoken hard toil, and who patiently bow themselves in abject bondage to the later arrived yet ruling race, the Watutsi."

For centuries, a feudal Tutsi aristocracy of cattlekeepers had ruled over the agricultural Hutus and the hunter-gatherer before the Germans took control of what is now Rwanda as part of their East African empire in the late 19th century.

There are no psychologists in this devastated land today to explain why the Hutu death squads have killed Tutsis in such a pathological manner in the last 10 weeks since President Juvenal Habyarimana — a Hutu — was assassinated.

Tutsi refugees have arrived in Burundi with all their fingers, supposed in their clan to be long and delicate, sliced off. Some of the tall corpses of Tutsis, washed up on the shores of Lake Victoria hundreds of miles downstream from Rwanda, have had their



Rwandan civilian flee the embattled capital Kigali (AFP photo)

Prejudice-laced book gives clue to Rwanda horror

feet amputated.

Asked why so many bodies have been thrown in the Akagera River, believed by Rwandans to be the true source of the Nile River, Tutsi rebel Evariste Buregeya said: "They want our bodies to float back to where we came from, back to Egypt."

In Rwanda, people have always spoken the same language, had the same religion, and often intermarried.

Many Rwandans argue that the divisions in their society were those of class, not ethnicity, and that a Hutu who was wealthy could become a Tutsi in a

special ceremony.

The colonial rulers were thin on the ground so they chose to rule indirectly through the Tutsis. This system was well entrenched by the time Germany lost its dominions at the end of World War I and Belgium took Rwanda for itself.

Historians say Tutsis

gained a Western education under the colonial system, particularly through the church. This may partly explain why priests and churches have been targeted in the recent massacres.

By the 1950s, Tutsi intellectuals were agitating for independence from Belgian

colonial rule.

In an attempt to suppress the African nationalist movement, the Belgians switched their support to Hutu politicians whose main concern was to end the Tutsi monarchy rather than an end to white domination.

Hardline Tutsis, con-

vinced of their own superiority, responded by going on a killing spree of Hutus. This in turn sparked a Hutu revolt in which tens of thousands of Tutsis were butchered.

Belgium stood by while the killings went on, historians say, but shrugged off the problem by finally giv-

ing the volatile Central African territory independence in 1962.

For the thousands of Tutsi refugees from the 1959 uprising, the struggle was just beginning to come home again. For the Hutus, there was the fear of a hated, vengeful Tutsi supremacy being restored.

Jordan will protect its interests

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said earlier Tuesday that he was prepared to meet the monarch anywhere, any time" following their breakthrough June 7 agreement in Washington in which they set a detailed agenda as a basis for treaty negotiations.

Mr. Rabin's remark followed a comment by King Hussein a day earlier raising the possibility of a meeting sometime soon between Israeli and Jordanian officials.

The King emphasised that "the crowning achievement of all these efforts, hopefully, is a peace treaty."

In an apparent reference to criticism that Jordan has moved ahead of the Arab bloc in the peace process, the King asked: "Is Jordan expected to be the last to sign a treaty?"

The King also responded to charges that Syria reportedly believes Jordan has moved too fast on diplomatic

contacts with Israel, saying Jordan has "always been in touch" with Syria during the peace process.

Asked if Jordan might form a federation with the new Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, King Hussein said it was premature to speculate on this.

"I'm sure it will be a very close relationship. I'm sure that in time, when conditions are ripe, people under conditions of freedom will work together to define that relationship," he said.

The King arrived in Washington last week after undergoing a checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He said doctors had given him a clean bill of health two years after his surgery for cancer.

King Hussein said he will discuss with President Clinton all aspects of bilateral relations and regional matters in addition to bilateral cooperation which Jordan hopes will grow in the time ahead.

Palestinian prisoners strike

(Continued from page 1)

offenses and no one held since 1948.

Israel says it has released some 4,000 of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners it agreed to free under the May 4 self-rule deal. The remainder refused to agree to pledge to end violence and/or to serve out their sentence in Gaza or Jericho in line with the autonomy agreement, according to the army.

A senior PLO official said last week that Israel had carried out its part of the bargain and urged the men to sign the pledge.

However, aid groups report that fewer than 3,000 have been freed.

Under the self-rule deal, the fate of those who remain in jail is to be decided by further negotiations.

A Palestinian released from prison two weeks ago was sent back to jail for life after leaving Jericho, according to a newspaper report here.

Muaffak Mahmoud Abed Al Karim, from Ramallah, was released from jail on condition he stayed in Jericho, the Haaretz newspaper said.

But he was arrested by

Israeli soldiers at a roadblock outside Jericho, after they checked his details against a computer log of freed prisoners.

The Israeli army can call up details of the Palestinians freed under the May 4 autonomy accord on their computers, Haaretz said.

Mr. Karim, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, left Jericho to try to visit family and friends in Ramallah. He was sent back to prison to finish his life sentence.

Palestine security forces in Gaza have begun enlisting prisoners freed by Israel to protect them against revenge attacks from relatives of people killed as informers, a top security official said.

"In some cases, those returned (prisoners) have been armed through absorbing them in the security apparatus like the police, general security or the preventive security," said Rashid Abu Shbak, a senior officer of the Palestinian internal security service in Gaza.

Mr. Abu Shbak said several freed prisoners had been fired at in recent days by unknown assailants, presumed to be relatives of suspected informers.



Two Muslim boys aboard a U.N. personnel carrier (AFP photo)

At home they're friends, but Croat-Muslim distrust lingers

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

VARES, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Croats robbed him, penned him like an animal and beat him bloody. Other Croats offered food and friendship. Now Sapet Karamehic and Muslims like him share their dwellings with homeless Croats.

Old drinking buddies Zoran Wisnjic and Mehmedalija Cizmo would have shot each other a few months ago, when Croats and Muslims vied for Vares and other central Bosnian towns. They still wear different uniforms, but stand guard at a joint checkpoint and share a bunk.

"It was never a personal conflict. It was politics gone wrong," says Mr. Cizmo. His Croat comrade smiles and says: "Thank God we're together again."

A U.S.-brokered federation agreement signed in March commits the Muslims and Croats to forgiving, if not forgetting, a year of bloodletting that had divided their former alliance against the Serbs.

The deal has allowed the Bosnian Muslims to close one of two fronts and made its communications and transport easier. Croats are also helping the Muslim-led Bosnian government in some areas.

This has allowed the government to make small gains against the Serbs, who hold about 70 per cent of Bosnia, but not enough to turn the tide of a war that is now more than two years old.

For some, the federation is a forced marriage, a coldly logical tactic dictated by common fear of the Serbs and pressure from a world weary of Bosnia's war. For others, it is a triumph of

humanity. "I cannot let my feelings get in the way," said the government commander in Vares, Ekrem Mahmutovic, a Muslim who lost dozens of relatives last year when Croat troops wiped out a nearby village. "I would talk with the devil to get peace established here again."

But while there is a joint command on paper and a Muslim-Croat government is emerging, daily military and political orders still come from separate Muslim and Croat headquarters. Even those are ignored by some Croat warlords.

The agreement says tens of thousands of refugees should be free to go home, but some renegade Croats refuse to let Muslims return. That has frozen plans for an organized exchange of refugees by both sides. To go from Sarajevo to

Visoko, Muslims must make a detour of 203 kilometres on steep, mud-churned forest paths rather than take the 27-kilometre main road that crosses Kiseljak, a town northwest of Sarajevo held by renegade Croat troops.

But in Karamehic's apartment, he and three family members live in one room. The Croat Ante Jelic, his wife, Marijana, and their two children inhabit another. They share a third.

Asked how long the guests could stay, Mr. Karamehic's wife, Fata, smiled, brown eyes meeting Marijana Jelic's blue ones, "as long as they want," she said.

Their prewar friendship was strengthened by violence that convulsed Vares last fall, when Croat fighters from Kiseljak rounded up all Muslim men they could find. The same

troops massacred nearly 40 villagers in nearby Stupni Do as they retreated several months later.

"They took us to the high school gym," said Mr. Karamehic. "Then they started kicking us and beating all 317 of us with rifle butts."

After several days, Mr. Jelic, a doctor, got in to treat the injured, leaving only after repeated threats. With the help of another Croat, Mr. Karamehic bolted the next day when his captors relaxed their guard under U.N. pressure.

Then it was the Jelic family's turn. They fled in December as Muslim forces approached and retreating Croat troops went door-to-door warning of impending slaughter.

Refugees in Kiseljak heard horror stories of elderly Croat women being

dragged naked through Vares streets. None of it was true, but the Kiseljak Croats for months refused to let anyone return.

The Jelic family came back anyway June 9. Their home was in ruins. Their mother's apartment occupied by family of Muslims who fled the Serbs.

"I told them to stay," said Marijana Jelic. "I understand their problem. I was a refugee, too."

A few miles up the hill at the front-line post of Dastanko, a former Muslim village now held by Croats, Bosnian army officer Zaim Zeljkovic spoke persuasively of the advantages of cooperation. The scowls of his Croat listeners dissolved into laughter.

Asked whether he believed the federation would hold, Mr. Zeljkovic grinned, "patience," he counselled. "I came out of there alive, didn't I?"

Asian shares fall sharply after world markets dip

TOKYO (UPI)—A weak dollar and overnight declines in world markets sent Asia-Pacific stocks falling sharply Tuesday.

Share prices in Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, Singapore and Taipei all sagged following Monday's sell-off on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average ended 30.75 points lower at 8,741.50. European markets also fell.

The dollar tumbled to a 21-month low of 1.595 German marks overnight, plunging the psychological level at 1.60, which is traditionally considered a barrier to the dollar's recovery and foreign central banks to halt its decline.

After a record high and sharp rise in early May, the dollar gained sharply to above 1.60 marks and 102 yen, against New York close of 161.55.

In the currency markets, the yen fell to a 25-month low of 161.55, against New York close of 161.55.

Analysts said the prospect of improving commodity prices should help the market in the longer run, noting that about 60 per cent of Australia's listed companies were resource based and would benefit from a commodity price recovery.

ers said sentiment was hurt by the stronger yen, uncertainty in the bond market and overseas investors' profit-taking.

"Foreign investors can take handsome profits if they sell now since the yen is so strong against the dollar and share prices have risen a great deal this year," said trader Tetsuji Hirose at Sanyo Securities.

The Nikkei average ended down 338 points, or 1.60 per cent, at 20,813.16, its lowest since June 6.

Australian stock and bond prices slumped sharply, dragged down by weakness in global capital markets and fears that the country's brisk economic growth would fuel inflation and prompt a rise in interest rates possibly as early as August.

"The whole bloody world is weak at the moment, so for us it's just follow the leader," said Eric Gale, director of institutions at Sydney broker Ord Minnett Ltd.

The Australian All Ordinaries index finished below the 2,000 threshold for the first time since early May. It shed 30.9 points, or 1.53 per cent, to end at 1,993.6 as investors took their cue from the bond market and Wall Street.

Traders said the prospect of improving commodity prices should help the market in the longer run, noting that about 60 per cent of Australia's listed companies were resource based and would benefit from a commodity price recovery.

The Australian dollar, encouraged by the prospect of higher interest rates curbing inflation and signs of firmer commodity prices, rallied to a 22-month high of \$0.7415 on Tuesday before settling back to close at \$0.7399.

Hong Kong shares plunged for the second straight day on rising U.S. long bond yields and news Hong Kong Bank was mulling further tightening mortgage lending rules, brokers said.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index was down 140.40 points, or 1.56 per cent, at 8,857.78 just before the close.

"The U.S. dollar is weakening and that is obviously causing problems for the Hong Kong market," said Brian Langdon-Pratt of MBF unit Trust Managers Ltd. "Internally the market is under pressure from its property counters."

"I think sentiment is very poor because of concern over mortgage tightening," said Bobby Ho, dealing manager at G.K. Goh.

Analysts said demand by end-users would eventually support the property market but the immediate market focus was on the direction of U.S. interest rates rather than the local factors.

"Although the Hong Kong market looks cheap, institutions are adopting a wait-and-see attitude because of uncertainties on U.S. interest rates," said Yoshi Saigusa, chief of Asian equities at Nikko Securities.

"I think the market will go

down to 8,500 either on Friday or next week," said Priscilla Ng of Sun Hung Kai Securities. "I think there will be further drops in properties."

In Singapore, the 30-share Straits Times industrial index had dropped more than 25 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 2,259.11 near 0800 GMT, a fall triggered by nervousness over uncertain U.S. interest rate trends, brokers said.

It was the same story across the region, with declines in Taipei, Manila and on the fledgling Shanghai market.

Analysts in Kuala Lumpur said the sharp drop in performance of most Asian stock markets since the beginning of 1994 was merely a consolidation phase following their explosive surge last year but recovery could be prolonged.

"For the longer term, I believe that the secular trend will continue in the future," Shinya Akiyama, managing director of Hong Kong-based Daiwa Investment Advisors told an Asian capital markets conference.

Mr. Akiyama said trading volumes had declined by as much as 70-to-80 per cent from peak levels late last year

because foreign buying interest dissipated with the market falls.

"This suggests the recovery from current levels will be prolonged despite the relatively attractive share prices," Mr. Akiyama said. Since the start of 1994, most Asian markets had experienced sharp declines of as much as 30 per cent, he said.

"In this period, we have seen that the human mind is often very susceptible to volatile market conditions. For example, we now often hear very gloomy outlooks although there has not been any major worsening in economic fundamentals," Mr. Akiyama said.

He also said the international flow of capital would eventually return to Asia, even though it had "suddenly waned" this year. "It's only a question of time."

Mr. Akiyama said the region's attractiveness remained intact and added: "I believe that the next tide of money could be much larger in scale than the previous one."

Jakarta Stock Exchange President Hasan Zein Mahmud said Indonesian stock prices fell sharply in the



After billions of pounds disappeared from the London stock market, a trader shouts instructions and prices. Volatility across the bond and

U.K. stock markets gave rise to busy trading on the floor of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. (AFP photo)

first half of 1994 because of the rise in U.S. interest rates and the retreat of foreign investors from the market.

"I believe it is just temporary. The large correction is not because of a change in our competitiveness, but more because we don't have a strong local base," Mr. Hasan said.

"This is one of our challenges that we have to solve in the near future. We realise

that we cannot entirely avoid the volatility in portfolio investment flow, even with the improvement in our economic performance and increasingly sophisticated market," Mr. Hasan said.

Ahmad Abdullah, executive director of Kuala Lumpur-based Phileo Peregine Securities Sdn. Bhd., said buoyant economic growth, increasing capital spending for infrastructure development and good corporate earnings growth pictured a more optimistic picture for the regional bourses.

"We are more optimistic. We believe this is just a temporary consolidation after the giddy rise of last year," Mr. Ahmad said.

European stock markets were mixed Tuesday in nervous trading as dealers searched for direction after the previous day's large fall in share prices.

The main share-price recovery was staged in Frankfurt—the major market that suffered most in Monday's

selloff — where news that German M3 money supply growth had slowed in May from April boosted prices by 0.75 per cent.

The data also helped shares on the London and Paris markets but dealers complained that a lack of investors was keeping prices from rising further.

"The (London) market's not focusing on domestic sources of news," said Richard Kersley, an analyst at London brokers BZW. "Influences from international markets are dominating and we're seeing a pause pending some influence from outside."

Stock markets suffered a selloff last Friday which accelerated on Monday and dealers said shares were still weighed down by the same fears.

These included an ailing dollar which could lead to higher U.S. interest rates, a weak bond market and the recent surge in commodity prices which have stoked inflation fears.

Abu Dhabi in downstream drive to offset low oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP)—The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, a major oil producer, is pressing ahead with a drive to enter downstream investment abroad to increase revenue and offset weak crude prices.

The emirate, the main oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has just finalised its second major investment pact with an Austrian energy giant and is planning to buy more stakes in future, officials have said.

"These agreements will largely benefit our country as they will boost income and open up new markets for us," said Walid Al Muhairi, director general of International Petroleum Investment Corporation (IPIC). "Of course, there will be more downstream ventures in future."

Mr. Muhairi, who spoke to AFP by telephone, was commenting on a deal in which the state-owned IPIC bought nearly 20 per cent of Austria's OMV A.G. energy group last month for around \$450 million.

It was Abu Dhabi's second major overseas downstream project. Eight years ago, IPIC bought a 15 per cent stake in CEPSA, Spain's main refining and petrochemical company, in a deal worth more than \$120 million.

Its overseas investment exceeded \$25 billion but they are concentrated in stocks, real

estate and bank deposits. This is in contrast with neighbouring Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have built a massive oil investment network abroad and are planning more downstream ventures.

Sources close to IPIC, which is controlled by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, said the group was discussing several offers for downstream investment. They said they were made by some Western and Asian countries but they had no further details.

"Some of them are major projects and were offered a long time ago. As you know, downstream investment is a complicated process. You have to be very careful before you embark on such projects," one source said.

Abu Dhabi has also been engaged in major upstream projects to raise the production capacity of its oilfields to face growing world demand. Such projects have boosted output capacity to 2.6 million b/d from around 2.3 million b/d in 1991, according to the oil ministry.

The emirate has also expanded the capacity of its two refineries at Umm Al Nar and Ruwais to around 215,000 b/d from 185,000 b/d.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day — an evening to study modern methods that could help advance your career activities and to be in touch with those who can assist you in becoming more efficient. Complete any pending civic duties.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure your regular activities are wisely scheduled and then carry through in a sensible manner. Be logical in your thinking of situations.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Obtain important information for a project you are interested in before you go ahead with definite plans. Be wise knowledge about any subject.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you handle routine duties in a modern manner, you can gain benefits. Study a new plan before making any changes to an existing one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't neglect important tasks early in the day. Try to cooperate more with fellow associates. Strive for harmony in your life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure you don't take on any heavy expenditures of money in the evening. Allow time to engage in creative activities you very much enjoy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Postpone going ahead with a new interest you have in mind. Wait until a better time. Evening is fine for generations which give you pleasure.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve the foundation of your life so you can have more abundance in the days ahead. Get rid of annoying conditions which plague you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Iron out any problems with others in a quiet and tactful manner. Seek the company of congenials in the evening whom you wish to see.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have to use careful thought in handling affairs today. Use your intuitive faculties for best results on any new situation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use a different attitude in handling a puzzling situation and you get better results. Seek the company of friends tonight and have fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have hidden desires that need more study before you pursue them. Strive for increased happiness and joy in whatever is your desire.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Some of your friends may have problems so be sure to give a helping hand. Show others you have practical wisdom and logical thinking.

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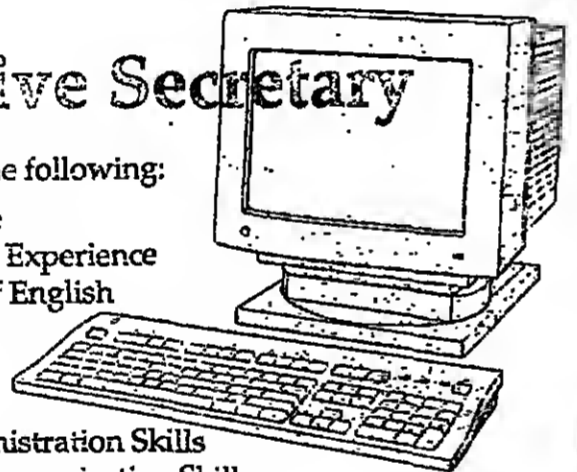
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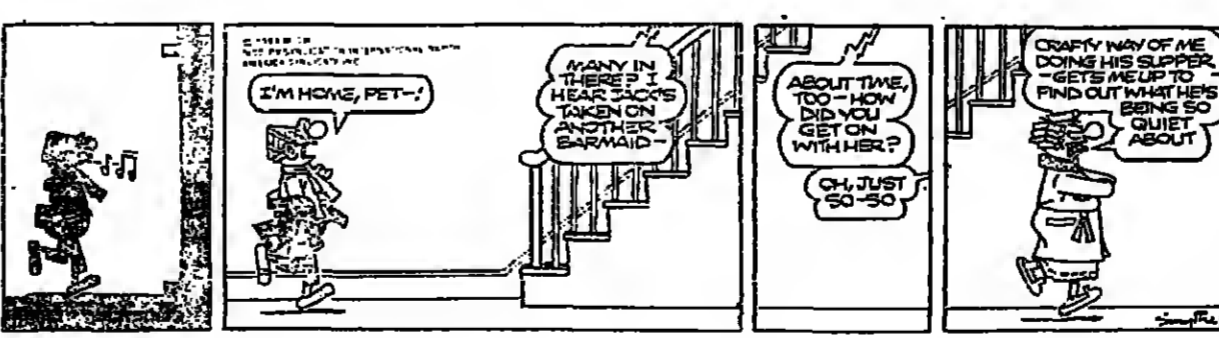
IDEAL Tel. 688123, Fax. 687476
From: 9:00 - 1:00 and 3:00 - 5:00



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by George Ughetto

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Ford's pet	1 Destined
5 — barrel (in a spot)	2 — Sadist
10 Hurry-up acronym	3 Not confined
14 Auth. unknown	4 Proceed in time
15 Languished	5 Make a choice
16 Solid Row type	6 By way of
17 "It takes"	7 Commune in Italy
18 WWII enemy	8 Prisoner at TV
19 Actor's prop	9 Idleness
21 BB gun	10 In store for
23 Sprinkled with flour	
26 Fiat fight	
27 Hammerin' Hank	
29 Explorer	
32 "Do not delete"	
35 Alternatives	
37 — Little Ireland	
38 Former canal	
39 Lukewarm	
41 Dinner, e.g.	
42 Floor cover	
43 Zola novel	
44 Multitude	
45 In arrears	
46 Gruesome	
51 Attempted	
53 Warehousing	
57 Slave	
60 Cruise ship	
61 — Bator	
62 Home run	
63 Race distance	
64 Murphy	
65 Blunt	
69 Poor	
70 Cunning look	
	11 Fairly tall person
	12 Indigo plant
	13 Se for a portrait
	14 Russian saint
	15 Russian saint
	16 Map abbr.
	17 Old word
	18 Senior member of a group
	19 Middle neighbor
	20 Head cavity
	21 Term in a pub game
	22 French poem
	23 Frenchman
	24 Author Anais
	25 Malle
	26 European
	27 Behind the — (in a poor position)
	28 Head cavity
	29 Term in a pub game
	30 French poem
	31 Frenchman
	32 Author Anais
	33 Malle
	34 European
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	90 European
	91 Behind the — (in a poor position)
	92 Head cavity
	93 Term in a pub game
	94 French poem
	95 Frenchman
	96 Author Anais
	97 Malle
	98 European
	99 Behind the — (in a poor position)
	100 Head cavity

Answers tomorrow: SHAKY MOSSY HARBOR BELLOW When they didn't win the balloon race they were known as — "SOAR" LOSERS

كنا في ليل

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 20/6/94	Tokyo Close Date: 21/6/94
Sterling Pound	1.5368	1.5367
Deutsche Mark	1.5945	1.6019
Swiss Franc	1.3493	1.3520
French Franc	5.4670	5.4735
Japanese Yen	101.90	102.15
European Currency Unit	1.1950	1.1973

USD Per JLD
Amman Opening: 1.1950, 1.1973

European Currency Unit Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.0600	4.3100	4.6200	5.0000
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.8700	5.1800	5.6000
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.7500	4.8100	5.0000
Swiss Franc	4.0000	4.1200	4.3100	4.5000
French Franc	5.2500	5.3700	5.5000	5.8700
Japanese Yen	1.8700	1.9300	2.0600	2.2500
European Currency Unit	5.8700	5.9300	6.0600	6.2500

Interest: 100 basis points, 1.25% per annum, 1.25% per annum, 1.25% per annum

Metals	USD/Oz	JLD/Gm	Metals	USD/Oz	JLD/Gm
Gold	389.85	7.70	Silver	5.49	0.125

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
Sterling Pound	1.0591	1.0644
Deutsche Mark	0.4302	0.4324
Swiss Franc	0.5098	0.5123
French Franc	0.1259	0.1265
Japanese Yen	0.6746	0.6782
Dutch Guilder	0.3841	0.3860

Swedish Krona	0.0436	0.0438
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.0436	0.0438

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8150	1.8270
Lebanese Lira	0.000480	0.001620
Saudi Riyal	0.1837	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3850
Qatari Riyal	0.1873	0.1883
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7730	1.7890
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1883
Greek Drachma	0.2780	0.3145
Cypriot Pound	1.3400	1.8990

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3880/90	Canadian dollar	1.6018/28
	1.7952/62	Deutsche marks	1.3520/30
	32.96/00	Dutch guilders	3.7500/10
	5.4710/60	Swiss francs	1.5945/55
	1580.82/3	Belgian francs	33.33/43
	101.92/97	French francs	6.55/65
	7.7125/25	Italian lire	2036.00/10
	6.9600/00	Japanese yen	101.90/15
	6.2850/00	Swedish crowns	13.75/85
One sterling	\$1.5382/92	Norwegian crowns	13.75/85
		Danish crowns	13.75/85

One ounce of gold \$389.80/390.30

Japanese economic data signal worst of recession is over

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's economy posted its strongest quarterly growth rate in three years during the March quarter in the latest sign that the worst recession in post-war history is nearing an end, the government said Tuesday.

The Economic Planning Agency said gross domestic

product (GDP), a country's total output of goods and services adjusted for net foreign income, grew one per cent after a 0.7 per cent contraction in December.

Further good news came from separate data showing that the agency's leading index of indicators was positive in April for the fourth month in a row.

"The worst part of the recession is over," declared Tsutomu Tanaka, deputy director general of the government agency. Mr. Tanaka was cautious in declaring a full recovery, however, citing "irregular factors such as the stronger yen" which appreciated sharply Tuesday, depressing Japanese stock prices.

The rebound in GDP marked the sharpest increase since the March quarter of 1991 and almost entirely reflected stronger private consumption expenditure, which expanded at the fastest pace in two years and nine months.

Despite the relatively strong GDP figures for the March quarter, they were not enough to allow the Japanese economy to show even a modest expansion for the fiscal year ending in March. GDP was unchanged from a year earlier compared with the 0.4 per cent growth the previous year and falling short of the agency's official target of 0.2 per cent growth.

The March figures show that consumer spending accounted for four-fifths of the overall one per cent increase in GDP with public spending accounting for one-fifth. But housing expenditure fell for the first time in a year and capital investment by private companies remained depressed.

Mr. Tanaka attributed the strong consumer demand to brisk spending on consumer electronics products, tourism and entertainment.

"A further increase in consumer spending can be expected thanks to the income tax reduction this year," he said.

Mr. Tanaka said the economy as a whole was gaining upward momentum with "bright movements spreading" and "strong movements towards economic recovery."

He said there was little possibility of GDP shrinking in the current June quarter, as it did last year following the yen's sudden appreciation, noting: "Adjustment is progressing steadily in various parts of the economy."

The March figures showed that private consumption expenditure expanded by 1.4 per cent from the December quarter, twice as fast as the previous quarter and the sharpest increase since the June quarter of 1991. Public investment grew 2.3 per cent, up from 1.5 per cent in the December quarter.

Delors defends controversial investment proposals

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European Commission President Jacques Delors launched a vigorous defence here Tuesday of his controversial proposals for a massive investment programme, warning that it was necessary to create jobs.

At a press conference ahead of a European Union (EU) summit on the Greek island of Corfu, Greece, on Friday and Saturday, he said a projected economic recovery would not be enough to solve the EU's unemployment crisis.

"If over the next five years we do not raise general living standards, and if all the benefits (of economic recovery) go to investments and job creation, we can have unemployment by the year 2000," he said.

The EU's chief executive was sharply critical of "two or perhaps three EU countries" which have blocked his plan for significant public sector involvement in funding trans-European transport networks.

This was a reference to Britain, Germany and France, which do not want to raise their public debt in order to pay for an ambitious multi-billion-dollar investment programme for transport, energy and telecom networks.

Mr. Delors said he feared that EU leaders might ditch a commission proposal for measures to increase competitiveness and create jobs, because of signs that their countries were emerging from economic recession.

The European economy is at the crossroads between survival and decline," he said, urging a "new balance" between competitiveness, job creation and social welfare.

According to the commission's latest economic forecasts, the EU's aggregate economic growth will reach 1.6 per cent this year and rise to 3.0 per cent by 1996.

But Mr. Delors warned that not even economic growth of 2.5 or three per cent was enough to bring down unemployment, which is expected to peak at 11.6 per cent in 1995 — meaning nearly 20 million people out of work.

The commission has accepted that one big obstacle holding up job creation is the heavy social charges levied by government on employers to fund social programmes.

Its "white paper" on employment recommends that these levies be reduced and that labour regulations hindering economic progress should be relaxed.

But the EU has already largely thrown out the commission's recipe for finding alternative ways of financing social welfare.

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Fighting continues in Bosnia with U.N. kept at distance

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's warring armies accused each other of launching attacks around a strategic road in central Bosnia Tuesday and the United Nations could not confirm which side was responsible for the fighting.

A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo reported 70 detonations in the Ribnica area at the end of a confrontation line south of Mount Ozren where the Bosnian Serbs have for some days said they were being attacked by the Muslim-led Bosnian army.

On Tuesday the Serbs repeated the charge, which they have backed with threats of a "massive counter-offensive." Government-controlled Sarajevo Radio, breaking its silence on activity near Ozren, said its civilians had been shelled.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Sunday thousands of Serb civilians had fled a Bosnian army offensive on the Mount Ozren area which he said was aimed at securing control of an important road.

The road cuts across a long finger of mountainous terrain under Serb control but surrounded on three sides by forces of the Bosnian government.

The U.N. has said it has very few observers in the remote Ozren region and restrictions had been placed on the movement of personnel

by the Bosnian army, limiting the ability to verify the claims of either side.

Both foreign correspondents and Serb journalists have been prevented from travelling into the Ozren area by the Serb military.

Bosnian Serbs have banned the movement of U.N. personnel on territory they control four days a week, "to apply pressure on the U.N. because of Bosnian (military) offensive actions," U.N. spokesman Major Rob Annink said in Sarajevo.

An artillery-spotting radar is being sent to the Ozren area and should be providing surveillance of military activity by Wednesday, Maj. Annink said.

A U.N. source has commanded the Serbs for so far showing "unusual" restraint in the Ozren area after Muslim artillery fire. On Tuesday Maj. Annink said the Bosnian army was still "indulging in military activity and offensive actions," but stopped short of describing it as a major ground attack.

The threatened Serb counter-offensive would seriously jeopardise the already shaky truce set up by the United Nations to prepare both sides to accept a long-term peace plan now being finalised by diplomats.

The peace plan is expected to stand or fall on the details

of a map of Bosnia's ethnic division that will give the Muslim and Croat Bosnian Federation 51 per cent of the country and Serbs the rest. The Serbs now control 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Diplomatic sources said foreign ministers from the major powers sponsoring the latest peace deal have provisionally set July 1 and 2 for a meeting in Geneva to finalise the plan.

The ministers — from the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — had hoped to meet earlier but problems in selling the plan to the Bosnian government and the Serbs have led to delays.

The plan was to have been presented on a "take it or leave it" basis but mediators now seem willing to allow a little more time for the parties to mull over the details.

"They prefer for the moment to keep trying to convince, rather than delivering ultimatums," said one envoy.

Ceasefire violations in Sarajevo more than tripled in number Monday, Maj. Annink reported. The majority of incidents involved small arms fire in a western suburb.

The U.N. said that following recent sniping incidents in the city it was stepping up 24-hour patrols of vulnerable positions. Sniping has continued to plague Sarajevo de-

spite a February ceasefire that halted artillery attacks.

Meanwhile, Muslim-led Bosnian government troops have pushed close to the headquarters of a breakaway Muslim leader after a nine-day assault, United Nations sources said Monday.

The inter-Muslim fighting in the northwest Bosnian enclave of Bihać that has pitted soldiers loyal to Sarajevo against the troops of local businessman Fikret Abdić died down during the day, the sources said.

They said government troops were within 13 kilometres of Mr. Abdić's stronghold town of Velika Kladusa after a northward thrust that began the day after a temporary truce agreed for Bosnia came into effect.

The truce brought some calm to frontlines separating Muslim and Croat allies from their Serb foes but has been ignored in the Bihać enclave.

Mr. Abdić was not invited to sign the accord.

The Bosnian government and Mr. Abdić split last year amid bitter fighting over his willingness to negotiate with the Serbs.

Mr. Abdić's headquarters lie in the industrial town of Velika Kladusa at the northern tip of the Bihać enclave, facing Serb-held parts of Croatia.



A Bosnian soldier loyal to separatist Muslim leader Fikret Abdić aims a 762mm machine gun position overlooking Peticgrad in the northern pocket of the Bihać enclave (AFP photo)

Amnesty slams Danish police methods

COPENHAGEN (R) — Amnesty International strongly criticised Danish police methods Tuesday in a rare attack on a Scandinavian democracy proud of its human rights record and tradition of tolerance.

A 30-page report, prepared by the human rights organisation's London headquarters, cited examples of gross police ill-treatment and called for a commission of inquiry and complete review of police complaints procedures in Denmark.

Amnesty listed examples of police violence during rioting in Copenhagen after a May 1993 referendum on Europe, and also in a 15-month police campaign against hushh dealing in a squatter colony.

It highlighted Danish police shooting into crowds of rioters at the anti-Europe protests in May 18 last year when 11 youths were wounded by small arms fire in the most violent street unrest in the

Danish capital since World War II.

The report cited the case of a 31-year-old bystander whose jaw and bottom teeth were shattered by a police bullet along with cases of police ill-treatment including beating up and using "leg-lock" on detainees and rioters.

Amnesty said the "leg-lock" method was not used in any other Western European countries with the exception of Norway.

The report also cited the case of a 31-year-old bystander whose jaw and bottom teeth were shattered by a police bullet along with cases of police ill-treatment including beating up and using "leg-lock" on detainees and rioters.

Amnesty said the "leg-lock" method was not used in any other Western European countries with the exception of Norway.

Bomb attack on Dhaka editor's home could be linked to Muslim militants

DHAKA (Agencies) — A bomb attack early Tuesday at the home of a Bangladesh magazine editor could be the latest strike in a campaign by Muslim fundamentalists, media sources said.

Two powerful homemade bombs exploded at the gate of the Dhaka home of Shafiq Rehman, editor of the popular Bengali language weekly Jai Jai Din, or Passing Days. No-one was hurt though.

Mr. Rehman reportedly faces a blasphemy case while his magazine has published a column by the feminist writer Taslima Nasreen who went into hiding after religious charges were laid against her.

The editor was unavailable for comment while police said they had "no information" about the cause of the attack.

The media sources said the attack could be linked to a report in the pro-Islamic Daily Inqilab newspaper that an arrest warrant for blasphemy was issued against Rehman Sunday in northeastern Sylhet district by a magistrate.

Local resident Hafiz Abdul Alim charged that Mr. Rehman in insulted religious feeling by comparing two Arabic letters to human genitals in his column, Day after Day, in November, 1993.

The court ordered his arrest after he failed to answer several summons and set a hearing for July 17, Inqilab said.

The sources said Mr. Reh-

man was in touch with lawyers and was expected to seek a bail order from the High Court Wednesday. Tuesday was a public holiday.

The bombs could also be linked to fugitive writer Nasreen who wrote a regular column called Spoiled Girl's, Spoiled Column in the magazine, the sources said.

Mr. Rehman had received a letter from the Islamic fundamentalist Jagrata Towhid Janata, or Rising Faithfuls, recently demanding that the column be stopped, the sources said.

The column stopped appearing after Nasreen went into hiding earlier this month.

Police have not yet located Nasreen, 32, who faces charges of offending Muslim religious sentiment over an interview with an Indian newspaper. Nasreen denies, however, having said the Koran should be rewritten.

Jai Jai Din was banned by former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government and Mr. Rehman only returned from self-exile in London after the dictatorial regime's fall in December 1990.

In recent weeks, fundamentalists have attacked several other newspaper which are vocal against fundamentalism and preach secularism.

Some editors have warned the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia about the rising fundamentalism in

the overwhelmingly Muslim South Asian country.

Three editors of the mass circulation Bengali daily Janakanda newspaper were arrested for alleged blasphemy in recent days. Two were released on bail.

Journalist union officials said 24 newspapers have been attacked, mostly by fundamentalists, over the past three years.

Academics, journalists and artists in Bangladesh have formed an organisation to counter Islamic fundamentalism.

A 56-member National Committee to Resist Communal and anti-independence forces was formed Sunday to prevent a general strike called by Muslim extremists for June 30.

It was the first time that liberals have banded together to defy the increasingly vocal fundamentalists, whose political clout is enhanced by holding the balance of power between the government and the opposition parties. Clerics also have great influence in rural villagers.

"The nation can't tolerate the fanatics who are out to destroy the basic values of our independence. Secularism, free thinking," said Kazi Shaheed Ahmad, a newspaper editor who heads the committee.

At least 1,400 schools have been vandalised by Muslim fanatics in recent months, and 55 of them burned.

Clinton hints at possible exile for Haiti's military

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has left open the possibility that the United States might let Haiti's military leaders leave the country without trying to punish them if they yield power without a fight.

"We have always said... that we had no interest in punishing anyone," Clinton said Tuesday. "But a report that the military could leave the country without a fight would be a very different matter."

Clinton said he was not sure if he would sign a law that would let military leaders leave the country without a fight.

Clinton said he was not sure if he would sign a law that would let military leaders leave the country without a fight.

interested in honouring the original conditions of the Governor's Island Agreement," he said on NBC's Today show.

Mr. Aristide was exiled from Haiti in a bloody military coup after winning democratic elections in 1991.

The Governor's Island Agreement was a U.N.-sponsored accord signed by a leader of the coup, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, and Mr. Aristide in July 1993 on an island in New York Harbor under which the coup leaders were to step down peacefully and allow Mr. Aristide's restoration by the fall of that year. The military rulers subsequently repudiated that accord.

Irish premier sees joint authority in N. Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland wants to set up an authority with some cross-border powers over Northern Ireland in return for dropping its claim to the British province.

Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said in Tuesday's Irish Times the authority was under negotiation with Britain as the second phase of a joint drive to end the 25-year Northern Ireland conflict.

"Institutional links between North and South will have executive powers. That's the type of overall framework we're looking for," Mr. Reynolds said in an interview in Boston, where he was receiving an award for his peace-making efforts.

As part of the agreement Ireland would drop a constitutional claim to Northern Ireland and Britain would change the government of Ireland Act which gives it authority over the province.

Mr. Reynolds said, "His remarks, the most explicit to date about talks Dublin and London have been holding for months, seemed certain to enrage Protestant politicians in Northern Ireland and extremist gangs fighting Ireland's 'interference' in the affairs."

They were published on the front page of the news-

paper on the day that thousands of mourners converged on the hamlet of Loughinisland for the funeral of six Catholics killed by the Protestant UVF guerrilla group Saturday.

The UVF and sister groups say they are killing Catholics to derail attempts by London and Dublin to forge new links between the predominantly Catholic Irish Republic and the majority Protestant North.

One of the longest-standing objections Protestant political parties and extremist groups have to any cooperation between London and Dublin are articles two and three of the Irish constitution, which claim Northern Ireland.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has fought British rule of northern Ireland for 25 years and its political arm, Sinn Féin, is currently weighing its response to the Anglo-Irish plan.

Protestant guerrilla groups and some politicians fear the response might be positive and view it as a reward for a guerrilla war in which 3,000 people have died and the province has been turned into a region under siege.

The Irish leader's remarks appeared partly directed at Sinn Féin leaders.

Russia, U.S. hold joint naval exercise

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (R) — Russian and U.S. warships began joint naval exercises Tuesday, staging a simulated earthquake recovery near Vladivostok, a Russian Navy spokesman said.

Marines from the former cold war rival forces were landing on the Klenka peninsula 50 kilometres south of the home base of Russia's Pacific Fleet.

Russian soldiers and junior officers played the part of earthquake victims.

Rear Admiral Nikolai Kochergin was commanding the Russian force of 180 Marines, with 18 armoured vehicles, two helicopters, and two anti-submarine vessels.

The U.S. contingent, headed by Rear Admiral John Siegler, consisted of 250 Marines, 16 helicopters and the helicopter-carrier ship Duquesne.

The exercises, which will last until June 23, are the first of their type between the world's two biggest navies, which have adopted a more friendly relationship following the end of the cold war.

The Russian navy spokesman said the exercises would be continued next year on the California coast.

with the United States, President Clinton has not withdrawn a package of suggested U.N. sanctions.

The last phase of the proposed sanctions calls for an embargo against the cast-strapped Stalinist country. This could be enforced by a blockade.

In a joint news conference by the commanders of the five navies, Adm. Unruh said Rimpac was a key exercise to prepare for possible joint naval operations in a future crisis.

Warships and aircraft from the United States, South Korea, Japan, Canada and Australia took part in the month-long Rimpac games, short for rim of the Pacific and held every two years.

The actual manoeuvres by the 57 ships and 200 aircraft, staged mostly in waters off Hawaii, ended last week.

"We trained in command, control, communications and intelligence to support any U.N. Security Council resolution," Australian Commander Rear Admiral Don Chalmers told the news conference, held aboard the U.S. 3rd Fleet flagship Corrado. Berthed in Pearl Harbour.

Adm. Chalmers said past Rimpac games had proved their worth during the 1990-91 Gulf War. "My (Australian) forces came under Admiral Unruh's command very smoothly then," he said.

At the time, Adm. Unruh was commander of the USS Independence carrier battle group stationed in the Gulf.

Besides classic "war at sea" manoeuvres, including hunting for submarines and air strikes against fleets, Rimpac this year focused on "littoral" operations, such as supporting amphibious landings and blockades, the commanders said.

"Since the end of the cold war, the Canadian Navy has taken part in joint operations in the Gulf, the Adriatic and now Haiti," said Canadian Commander Rear Admiral Richard Waller. "This type of exercise is ideal for us."

UNICEF reports some progress on hunger, education

PARIS (AFP) — Malnutrition will soon be a thing of the past in 30 states and literacy rates have reached 90 per cent in some developing countries, UNICEF said in its annual "progress" report published Tuesday.

However, the health outlook for children in sub-Saharan Africa remained gloomy and child prostitution was rife in at least 32 countries, it said.

One third of children in developing countries suffer from malnutrition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said. But 30 countries had nearly solved the problem and less than 10 per cent of children in Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Egypt and Malaysia were malnourished, it said.

Cape Verde, China, Tanzania and Vietnam too had almost achieved their targets in this respect, UNICEF said.

In contrast, Bangladesh, Bolivia, El Salvador, India and Pakistan lacked resources to tackle the problem. Worse, Angola, Burundi, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire had "little chance" of eradicating malnutrition in the foreseeable future, the report said.

In disease control, UNICEF said that despite vaccination of some 80 per cent of the world's children, thousands still died each year from avoidable diseases.

In the fight against tetanus which kills 650,000 people each year, UNICEF said efforts had been stepped up in nine countries, including Guinea, Morocco, Peru, Sri

Lanka and Vietnam, but in 26 others — Ethiopia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Uganda and Zambia notably — the rate of protection had declined.

Polio, though widely considered to have been eradicated, leaves 140,000 people disabled each year and vaccination has declined in 22 countries ranging from El Salvador and Nigeria to Iceland and Greece largely because of complacency, UNICEF said.

Vaccination against measles which kills a million children a year, had gone down in Austria, Georgia and Togo.

The picture was particularly bad in countries like Madagascar, Haiti, Zambia, Ivory Coast or Sudan which were falling behind in almost all areas of general health care and sanitation.

Moreover 850,000 children could be dying of AIDS by 2010, according to U.S. estimates, cited in the report.

Literacy rates are generally on the increase and 10 developing countries including Cuba, Jamaica, South Korea, Thailand and Uruguay had succeeded in attaining 90 per cent, the report said.

Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam had a 75 per cent literacy rate for gross domestic product (GDP) of less than \$1,000 per head of population.

However some countries with a far higher GDP, like Algeria, Gabon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia had only achieved a 70 per cent rate.

The report said 57 per cent of couples in the world used

at least one contraceptive method but 120 million women in developing countries still had no access to such methods.

Some countries had achieved high rates for contraception use: China 83 per cent, Cuba 70 per cent, Thailand, Colombia and Brazil 66 per cent, Turkey 63 per cent, Sri Lanka 62 per cent and Vietnam 62 per cent.

The rate was 43 per cent in India and Zimbabwe, 40 per cent in Bangladesh and the Philippines, but in most parts of Africa the rate was less than 10 per cent, UNICEF said. In Nigeria it was six per cent, in Mozambique and Niger four per cent and in Somalia just one per cent.

The number of women who died in childbirth remained above 800 per 100,000 in some parts of Africa, notably Burkina Faso, Guinea, Nigeria, Somalia and Zaire.

Female circumcision or infibulation was still practised in 28 countries but concentrated mainly in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Sudan.

Thousands of children were forced into prostitution in at least 32 countries including Brazil, China, Cuba, India, the Philippines, Thailand and Zaire, UNICEF said.

Thousands of children are mutilated by some 100 million anti-personnel mines planted in 62 countries notably in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia.

Industrialised countries meanwhile have seen a decline in the welfare of chil-

dren due to a worrying increase in poverty, violence and abuse, the report said.

Today, five per cent of Europe's children are living in poverty: 7.4 per cent in Britain, 4.6 per cent in France and 2.8 per cent in Germany, while in Australia the rate was 10 per cent.

In the United States, the poverty rate increased from 14.7 per cent in 1974 to 20.4 per cent in 1986. Today, one child in five lives in poverty, three out of ten are born to one-parent families and eight million have no health insurance.

Also in the United States, violence among young people has soared. The number of teenagers aged 15 and 19 who are murdered — 17 per cent — is seven times greater than in Europe, while the number of young Americans arrested for murder doubled in the last decade.

In Russia, 10 per cent of people murdered are in the 15 to 19 age bracket.

Since 1970, murders of teenagers have doubled in Bulgaria from 1.5 to 3.0 per cent. In Canada the rate has risen from 1.0 per cent to 2.3 per cent and has trebled in Italy from 0.6 per cent to 2.1 per cent.

Teenage suicides have increased in Britain, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Spain and the United States.

Child abuse is widespread: Between 1985 and 1990, 10 out of 100,000 babies died from ill-treatment in Czechoslovakia, 9.8/100,000 in the United States, 8.7/100,000 in the former Soviet

Union, 8.1/100,000 in Denmark and 7.4/100,000 in Japan.

Between 10 and 15 per cent of children in the industrialised world are victims of sexual abuse, the report said.

Youth suicide in New Zealand is the highest in the industrialised world, the report said.

Titled The Progress of Nations 1994, the report shows local suicide levels among 15 to 19-year-olds have almost trebled over the past 20 years.

In 1991 New Zealand's suicide rate for 15-19 year-olds was 15.7 per 100,000, according to the report. In comparison, Australia rates at 10.5 per 100,000 in 1991 and Japan 3.8.

UNICEF's New Zealand director Pamela Glading said in a statement that having the highest level of youth suicides in the world was "alarming."

"As a community we have to make sure that the resources, both human and financial are available to deal with this situation," she said.

"The report indicates that as a country we are not doing as well by our children and young people as we could and should be."

Ms. Glading said the report also highlighted other areas of concern for New Zealand including low levels of immunisation and the sixth-highest level of infant abuse among the 23 industrialised nations ranked.

"This report should show us that we really do owe it to our children, our future, to be doing a lot more for them," she said.

Moscow shuts down roach hotel

MOSCOW (AFP) — Moscow health officials have ordered the temporary closure of the massive Rossiya Hotel beside the Kremlin to disinfect premises infested by rats and cockroaches, hotel officials said Tuesday.

An employee said city officials had instructed the hotel, once the largest in the world, to vacate all of its 3,200 rooms by July 1 and clean up. Interfax News Agency reported that the director of the hotel, Sergei Smirnov, was being fined one million rubles (\$500) while the managers of the hotel's dry cleaning, laundry and hairdressing services were also being fined.

The deputy director of the Rossiya, Yevgeny Tsemelstov, claimed that the shutdown was routine and told AFP he had never heard of reports of rats or cockroaches in the hotel. The hotel was built in the early 1970s after Soviet authorities razed an old neighbourhood of churches and homes and it regularly housed high-ranking Communist Party officials and delegates to Kremlin events.

In addition to its maze of corridors and guest rooms, the hotel now also houses one of Moscow's best-known night clubs as well as a number of hard currency restaurants, bars and shops.

FBI set to crack secret of Napoleon's death

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The FBI has taken on a hairy new case: Analysing eight strands of hair reportedly belonging to Napoleon to determine whether the French Emperor was poisoned or died naturally in 1821. The eight strands — said to have once been part of Napoleon's famous forelock and snipped off at his death — were gingerly separated from a lock of 220 hair inside an ornate, red leather box and handed over Monday to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The 71-year-old owner of the emperor's lock, Frenchman Jean Fichou, watched the procedure with mixed feelings. "I hesitated a lot... I am responsible for a national treasure," he said, explaining his initial reluctance to part with a few strands of the historically documented lock he bought in 1964. Also watching the delicate hair operation deep in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters were about 10 collectors and history buffs, all of them hoping to crack the enigma of Napoleon's death. Taking the emperor's hairs to the FBI was the idea of the Napoleonic Society of America. Itching to know the truth behind the conqueror's death, the organisation appealed to Mr. Fichou's generosity until he finally relented in honour of the 50th anniversary of D-Day. A ninth hair allegedly belonging to Napoleon submitted by Canadian doctor Ben Wieder, author of a bestselling book on Napoleon's death, will also undergo a comparative study to determine its authenticity. Dr. Wieder and a growing number of historians believe Napoleon was slowly poisoned by an embittered royalist in his entourage on the island of Saint Helena, where he was banished by the British after losing the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Conspiracy theorists say the man who had conquered most of Europe and ruled France for almost two decades suffered from spasms and sporadic pain in his arms and legs — possible signs of arsenic poisoning.

U.K. plans hotel-style stars for hospitals

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Conservative government is planning to give hotel-style stars to its national health system hospitals, arousing the fury of doctors and opposition parties. From the end of June, the public will be able to check out the hospital ratings in an official government guide made available through libraries, townhalls and doctor's offices. The ratings — from a bargain basement one star to a luxury penthouse five — are to be decided by the number of patients examined, but not necessarily cared for, in the five minutes following their arrival in the emergency treatment centre, the government said. The delay in agreeing an appointment and an operation will also count in deciding the ratings and the percentage of out-patient operations.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.



ANOTHER VENICE? The main road between the railway station and the city centre in the southern Chinese city of Yingde has been transformed into a river by massive floods.

According to residents, 90 per cent of the city is under water. More than 600 people have lost their lives because of floods across the country (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

India names killer of Kashmir cleric

NEW DELHI (R) — India named a member of Kashmir's biggest pro-Pakistan militant group as the killer of a prominent cleric and politician, while the group blamed Indian security forces. A government spokesman, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said Monday that one of the attackers who killed Qazi Nissar Ahmad Bin Mohammad had been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Mir, a "platoon commander" in the fundamentalist Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The group denied the killing and accused Indian security forces of gunning down Mr. Nissar outside his home town of Anantnag, 55 kilometres south of Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, between Sunday night and Monday morning. Police said Mr. Nissar was abducted from his home Sunday night and his body found riddled with bullets Monday morning at Dayalgam near Anantnag. The Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader was buried Tuesday at a funeral attended by tens of thousands of mourners as a strike called to protest his assassination paralysed the Kashmir Valley. Mr. Nissar was buried in the "martyrs' graveyard" in the town of Anantnag, witnesses said.

5 killed in U.S. base shooting spree

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (R) — A recently discharged airman opened fire with an assault rifle at an air force base medical clinic Monday, killing four people and wounding 18 others before he was shot and killed by police, officials said. The gunman walked into the Fairchild hospital annex just outside this base 13 kilometres west of Spokane, Washington, and opened fire with an AK-47 rifle shortly after 3 p.m. (2200 GMT), said Colonel William Brooks, installation commander. Air force officials identified the suspect as Dean Mellberg, 20, of Lansing, Michigan, a former airman at the base who was discharged last month for psychological reasons. A psychologist who had treated Mr. Mellberg reportedly was among the shooting victims. Mr. Mellberg was shot and killed outside the clinic by a military policeman, authorities said. Most of the wounded were airlifted or taken by ambulance

to four Spokane hospitals, where 10 of the victims, including a four-year-old boy and five-year-old girl, were listed in critical condition, hospital officials said.

O.J. Simpson pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES (R) — Football legend O.J. Simpson stood in a Los Angeles court and told a judge he was not guilty of murdering his ex-wife and her male friend. Simpson appeared tired and closed his eyes frequently during the arraignment hearing when he was formally told the charges against him. He also winced when municipal court Judge Parti Jo McKay read out his ex-wife's name, Nicole Brown Simpson, in the murder charge. The hall of fame running back wore a dark pinstripe suit and a white shirt buttoned to the neck, but not a tie. He has been under a "suicide watch" in prison since his arrest Friday. His lawyer, Robert Shapiro, told reporters after the hearing that blood tests done as a result of the slayings were "not conclusive." Simpson is accused of killing his ex-wife, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, outside her \$700,000 townhouse in the Brentwood section of the city.

China 'persecutes' Protestant sect

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese authorities are engaged in the systematic persecution of an Evangelical Protestant sect in Henan province, with at least 13 "shouters" now in prison, Human Rights Watch/Asia said in a report. "China: Persecution of a Protestant Sect," published Wednesday, focuses on an intensive clampdown in the central province since the group — an outgrowth of an indigenous Chinese religious sect founded in 1922 — was labelled counter-revolutionary in May 1983. Large-scale persecution began on May 5, 1983 when some 2,000 Shouters were rounded up nationwide for "re-education," the international human rights group quoted an unconfirmed account as saying. Some 50 Shouters in Henan have since been jailed for up to 15 years, the report said, adding 13 remained in detention while three had died in prison or on medical parole, the report said.

Fighting intensifies in Kigali

KIGALI, Rwanda (Agencies) — Rebels shelled the Rwandan capital Tuesday morning in fierce fighting to gain ground before the arrival of French troops they believe will back the government.

A French deployment seemed more likely after U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali urged the Security Council to consider the plan. Dr. Ghali said the French troops could help calm the situation until a larger U.N. force is raised. The Security Council was to meet Tuesday afternoon to discuss sending an initial force of about 1,000 French troops. Jean-Bernard Merimee, France's ambassador to the United Nations, said the troops could arrive within days of U.N. approval.

The multinational U.N. force in Rwanda now numbers only 490 lightly armed soldiers, who have been unable to prevent widespread massacres of Rwandan civilians. It could take three months to send reinforcements, Dr. Ghali said.

Though Rwandan rebels say they welcome U.N. troops, they are bitterly opposed to French peacekeepers.

In a radio statement Tuesday, rebel leader Col. Alexis Kanyarengwe said his forces believed "the new plan for French intervention is intentionally dangerous, as it is meant to protect the killers of the Rwandan people."

France belated ward off a rebel advance in 1990, saying it was protecting foreign civilians. This time, France says it must intervene to stop the slaughter of Rwandan civilians.

The war pits Tutsi-led rebels against Hutu-controlled government forces. Most of the estimated 500,000 victims have been members of the Tutsi minority killed by

government-trained Hutu militias.

The rebels have captured about two-thirds of the country, including parts of the capital, Kigali. Rebel attacks on the eastern part of the city began Monday night and continued late Tuesday morning.

Rebel and government troops also battled Tuesday for strategic Mount Kigali, west of the capital.

The rebels appeared to be trying to capture as much territory as possible before the French troops arrive. U.N. spokesman Pierre Mehu said the battle for Kigali has intensified since the French proposed sending troops.

Mr. Mehu said it was impossible to determine how many people had been killed or wounded Monday night and Tuesday. But he said 200 people — including civilians and fighters — had been wounded by shells Monday.

The fighting had died down by morning, allowing the United Nations to evacuate hundreds of Tutsis who had been holed up in government-controlled Kigali in a church that was visited nightly by Hutu death squads.

Those left behind Monday at the St. Famille Roman Catholic Church were visibly frightened. Most were Tutsis, the ethnic group that has been decimated by Hutu militias and gangs since civil war resumed on April 6.

A French envoy met Rwandan rebels in Uganda Tuesday to explain the humanitarian goals of France's planned military intervention in Rwanda, officials said.

They said Jean-Michel Marlaud, French ambassador to Rwanda, who arrived in Uganda Monday, also met Ugandan officials in the capital of Kampala as well as representatives of the Rwanda Patriotic Front.

"He (Marlaud) is meeting with representatives of the

rebels right now. The (Ugandan) government is represented at the talks," a foreign affairs ministry official told Reuters.

Mr. Marlaud, whose mission in the Rwandan capital was closed nearly two months ago, was dispatched to Africa by Paris Monday to try to persuade the RPF to drop its objections to France sending 2,000 troops to protect threatened civilians.

France won guarded support from the Western European Union (WEU) Tuesday for the mission to end the massacres in Rwanda and diplomats said Italy might provide troops.

Ambassadors from the nine-nation WEU said after a meeting in Brussels that they were ready to contribute to the initiative to end "the terrible suffering in Rwanda," but only if certain conditions were met.

A WEU statement said its contribution was subject to a new decision by the United Nations Security Council on Rwanda and African involvement in an international effort to end the bloodshed in the former Belgian protectorate.

"The (WEU) council welcomes the readiness of certain African states to contribute to the international humanitarian efforts in Rwanda, which it considers essential," the statement said.

U.N. Security Council members reacted cautiously Monday to the call by Secretary-General Ghali to authorize intervention by about 2,000 French troops. The Council is due to have another private session on the issue late Tuesday.

Much of the caution centres around a total rejection by the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front of French involvement in Rwanda. The rebels accuse France of supporting government troops in the tiny

central African country.

Meanwhile, French soldiers stationed in the Central African Republic Tuesday made preparations for possible military intervention in Rwanda.

"We've been told to get ready, so we're getting ready. We don't know any more, but we're used to that," a soldier from a French Marine division said. Officers refused to comment.

Overnight Monday, troops from the main French base at Bouar, 450 kilometres north-west of Bangui drove to the capital in a convoy of several dozen vehicles and two military transport planes arrived at the airport.

France has 1,340 soldiers posted in the Central African Republic, equipped with light armoured cars, helicopters and four Jaguar fighters, according to French military sources in Paris.

Hundreds of protesters from Burundi's Tutsi tribe demonstrated in the capital Bujumbura Tuesday, against planned French intervention in Rwanda.

Waving placards vowing defeat for the French and condemning Paris for its plans, some 250 Tutsis demonstrated outside the French embassy, guarded by about 50 paramilitary gendarmes.

"We will eat them (the French troops). We will guillotine them. They will pay for their neo-colonialism," an organiser of the demonstration told Reuters, after threatening that any French journalists covering the demonstration risked attack.

The embassy was locked but staff could be seen inside. A much larger demonstration was called for later Tuesday by the opposition Youth Solidarity for the Defence of Minority Rights (SO-JEDEM), which urged supporters to march to the French mission.

Hosokawa denies allegations of dubious money deals

TOKYO (AFP) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Tuesday admitted he was not "completely clean," but denied he had been directly involved in dubious money deals.

"I took office last year to clean up Japanese politics, and I was not directly involved in the cases. But I was also in the old-fashioned Japanese politics for more than 20 years. I never said I was completely clean," he

told a parliamentary committee.

Appearing before the lower house Budget Committee for the first time in more than two months, Mr. Hosokawa said he had received 100 million yen (\$980,000) in loans from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. in 1982, which he had repaid.

But he admitted that he failed to immediately pay back interest worth some 30

million yen to Sagawa, which enjoyed cozy ties with senior politicians and underworld syndicates. He said he repaid the interest later.

Mr. Hosokawa also denied receiving any profits from the purchase of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Co. shares by his father-in-law.

He said he lent 15 million yen to his father-in-law to buy the shares, but was not "directly" involved in the

deal. Mr. Hosokawa, who used to be known as "Mr. Clean," took office last August, pledging to root out political corruption. But he was forced to step down in April, when the allegations surfaced.

It was the second time in only 16 months that a former prime minister has had to testify in parliament in connection with financial scandals.

Russian parliament approves Abkhazia peace force

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia will send its first peacekeeping troops to Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region Thursday following a vote by parliament approving the measure, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev announced Tuesday.

Gen. Grachev told reporters that the Federation Council, or upper house, approved the sending of some 3,000 troops to the secessionist Georgian region by a vote of 103 in favour, seven against and seven abstentions.

The first contingent of troops, who will be stationed as a buffer force between the two sides, would be deployed Thursday and the remainder in the five days following, he said.

The troops will be stationed along a 48-kilometre (29-mile) zone near the Inguri River which separates the northwest Abkhazia region from the rest of Georgia, Gen. Grachev said.

He said the Federation Council, which on June 2 voted against the deployment of Russian troops in Abkhazia, adopted the measure this time around to avoid having non-Russian soldiers stationed in the region.

He said two battalions will be sent from Russia's Batumi military base in Georgia and a third battalion from the Gudauta base in Abkhazia.

The troops can be backed "if need be" by two other battalions stationed near Saint Petersburg and the Volga region," Gen. Grachev said.

The entire operation will cost Russia through the end of the year between 11 and 12 billion rubles (\$5.5 and \$6 million) and will be funded by a special allocation outside the defence budget, he said.

The peacekeeping operation will initially entail helping the return of more than 200,000 Georgian refugees who fled the fighting in Abkhazia.

The deployment is in accordance with an agreement reached on May 14 between Abkhazian and Georgian leaders.



A Georgian family who had decided to return to Abkhazia after a deployment of peacekeepers got underway in the region of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, turns back on a bridge over the Inguri River near Zagdidi,

realising that there are still no peacekeeping troops. So far, only U.N. observers and technical military units have arrived in the conflict zone (AFP photo)

Georgia reluctantly agreed to the deployment of the Russian peacekeepers over-coming fears that the move would constitute a de facto partition of the country.

Though not under U.N. mandate, the Russian soldiers will work closely with about 20 U.N. observers stationed in the region, Gen. Grachev said.

The Abkhazian parliament voted to secede from Georgia in August 1992 and in September of last year routed Georgian troops from their territory after 13 months of fighting that left more than 3,000 people dead.

The Georgians accused the Russians of supporting the Abkhazian separatists at the time of the conflict.

In Geneva, meanwhile, talks to end the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia will reopen on June 30 under the chairmanship of U.N. mediator Edouard Brunner, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

These "political talks" are likely to centre on the future status of the breakaway region and on its relations with Georgia, Therese Gasfaut, the spokeswoman said.

In Tbilisi, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze praised Russia for its peacekeeping effort in Abkhazia Monday, saying it would be Georgia's "salvation."

"This operation will be Georgia's salvation," Mr. Shevardnadze said in an interview with Georgian National Radio.

Engineering units and commanders are already on the ground. The ITAR-TASS news agency said check points were being set up Monday near a strategic bridge on the Inguri River, which marked the front line during much of the war. It said Russian engineers were repairing the bridge.

The deployment enrages Georgian nationalists, who see it as a pretext for an expanded Russian military presence and who resent Mr. Shevardnadze's attempt to bring Georgia and Russia closer together.

Mr. Shevardnadze has also given Russian permission to set up military bases giving permanent status to some 20,000 Russian troops already in Georgia, some of

the peacekeepers are being drawn from these former Red Army units.

"The Russian military is helping us create our national army," said Mr. Shevardnadze who attended the first Russia-Georgia joint military exercises over the weekend in Batumi. "We can't do without their help."

He said it had been a mistake for Georgia to try and steer a course completely clear of Moscow after the Soviet breakup in 1991. It was, he said, "the root of all our misfortunes."

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, brought his country into the Commonwealth of Independent States last fall, saying the move would guarantee Georgia's territorial integrity.

Relations between Russia and Georgia often were tense during the Abkhazian war, with Georgia accusing Russian troops of helping the separatists. Many Georgians think Russia wanted to destabilise their country, creating an excuse for intervention that would boost Moscow's "imperial" ambitions.

NATO, Russia agree to new phase of cooperation

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO and Russia agreed on Tuesday to wide-ranging cooperation in European security issues, paving the way for Moscow to sign the Partnership for Peace and putting an end to recent disputes between the two sides.

The deal, following bitter complaints from Moscow that NATO was ignoring its big power status, allows Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to sign the partnership scheme on closer military links with NATO Wednesday.

A joint declaration to be published Wednesday sets out the principles of cooperation. It includes NATO recognition of Russia's importance and says the alliance will consult with Moscow on European security affairs.

Russia commits itself to active participation in the partnership scheme and will have no veto over alliance decisions, diplomats said.

"We have reached agreement," NATO Assistant Secretary-General Gephart Von Moltke told Reuters after talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin. "I think we have found a good basis for future cooperation."

"Now we have a clear understanding of the way our relationship is going to develop in the years to come," said Mr. Churkin, after three rounds of talks at NATO headquarters.

Moscow, which postponed signing the Partnership for Peace in April, has been pressing for special political ties with NATO beyond the partnership to reflect its status.

Cooperation between the two sides is vital to maintaining stability in post-cold-war Europe. Russia has a seat on the U.N. permanent Security Council and the world's largest nuclear arsenal. NATO is the world's only

functioning military alliance.

Diplomats said the alliance, which has set out clear limits for any future relationship with Moscow, had managed to retain most of what it wanted in the joint declaration.

Moscow had originally asked for formal consultations with the alliance on security issues but NATO insisted that it cannot give Russia any right to call talks or influence over decisions.

The relationship will be developed on an informal basis without any special treaty and NATO will decide the subject and timing of any consultations with Moscow.

Diplomats said Russia would now have a document that it could use to convince hardliners in the parliament and military that the West was taking it seriously.

At the same time, the alliance has made no real concessions to Russian de-

mands and can reassure Eastern European states, worried that a special relationship between NATO and Moscow could leave them out in the cold.

Many of Moscow's former satellites including Poland and Hungary want to join NATO soon, something Moscow opposes.

Mr. Kozyrev will also meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels Wednesday.

Russian will be the 21st country to sign the partnership, which is on offer to all former Soviet Bloc states and some other European nations outside NATO.

The progress in relations between NATO and Russia has surprised many diplomats at alliance headquarters, given recent disputes over Western air strikes in Bosnia, arms control and the future expansion of NATO membership to Eastern Europe.

Yeltsin steps nimbly to threshold of Europe

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin flies to the Greek island of Corfu this week to sign a cooperation agreement with the European Union (EU) that he hopes will hasten his country's acceptance as an equal partner with the West.

But the Russian leader may find little encouragement in his campaign to bring a country riven by economic problems into the mainstream of European economic integration.

Ships from the disputed Black Sea Fleet — a reminder of Russia's problems with neighbouring Ukraine — are arriving off Corfu ahead of Mr. Yeltsin's visit. Led by the anti-submarine vessel Kerch, they are expected to provide accommodation for delegates.

"The main condition we insist on is that we are not kept in the ante-room of the world market, like a poor relation," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said earlier this year in remarks that summarised poignantly Russia's position.

The large injections of state loans, whether from the International Monetary Fund or other Western agencies, have been slow in coming. Russia needs, more than anything, business confidence at home, foreign investment and access to markets.

The 10-year Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to be signed at the 12-nation EU summit stops well short of promising the community membership Russia ultimately seeks.

It sets 1998 as the possible date for opening talks on a free trade zone with the grouping that accounts for 50 per cent of Russia exports outside the former Soviet Union. Moscow must accept that former East European allies such as Hungary are already moving much faster along the path they plan to tread.

"This agreement has great political importance for the architecture of the map of Europe," one European diplomat commented. "It is a chapter in stabilising relations between Russia and the

EU." The PCA creates a clearer basis for political, economic and trade relations between Russia and the EU, which embraces Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Greece and Britain.

But diplomats say it does not abolish restrictions on specific areas of trade, especially high technology. Mr. Yeltsin has repeatedly argued that he wants Russia included in a new international grouping monitoring trade in sensitive products, but has little support from the U.S. or EU leaders.

The PCA does, however, make the ground rules clearer.

In the words of one diplomat, it constitutes a step towards membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — a goal important to Mr. Yeltsin's drive for Western integration.

Russia also sets great store by its inclusion in political deliberations of the group of

seven (G7) top industrial nations at a summit in Naples next month. Mr. Yeltsin has made it clear he wants inclusion in a full G8 as an economic member next year — again a goal viewed with reserve by Western officials.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was scheduled to sign NATO's Partnership for Peace programme Wednesday, opening the way for closer military cooperation with the West.

The PCA is, despite any shortcomings, an encouraging practical step for Mr. Yeltsin, who, for political as well as economic reasons, must prove to opponents and allies that Russia is being accepted on the world stage — albeit with caution.

Nationalist opponents portray Western countries, the EU included, as plunderers exploiting Russia's resources and flooding it with shoddy goods to kill off home production.

The agreement says EU import tariffs, now under one per cent for Russian exports, will fall to 0.3 per cent.

Late goal earns Dutch narrow win over Saudis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maybe it was overwhelming talent. Maybe it was experience. Maybe it was the sea of orange that filled Robert F. Kennedy Stadium. In the end it came down to a fortunate bounce.

Gaston Taumet took two steps to put his head on a ball that bounced his way chest high after goalkeeper Mohammed Al Daeyea failed to get a full fist to Frank de Boer's high cross in the 86th minute. It gave the Netherlands a 2-1 victory over Saudi Arabia in the World Cup opener for both teams.

For 31 minutes it looked as though Saudi Arabia would join the list of great upset winners in World Cup history.

Fuad Amin's 19th-minute goal gave the Middle Easterners a 1-0 lead over the Netherlands, and thoughts returned to the Americans over England in 1950, North Korea's 1966 victory over Italy and Algeria's stunner over Germany in 1982.

"We underestimated Saudi Arabia and the heat," said Dutch midfielder Frank Rijkaard. "We started off poorly and played bad in the first half."

The Dutch fans, decked out in orange foam rubber shoe hats and who brought their own orchestra to sit behind the southeastern goal, did not give up.

The band played oo, and oo, and oo. The fans sang and chanted, and finally roared when Wim Jonk ripped a 25-metre shot from outside the top of the penalty arc in the 50th minute to draw the Dutch even.

"We weren't so concerned," striker Ronald de Boer said. "I thought we would make one goal and I thought we could get the second one."

It came as the Saudis were tired and played more on their half of the field, relying only on an occasional counterattack.

The Dutch repeatedly tested Al Daeyea, Jonk blasting a shot from 10 metres directly at the Saudi keeper and Rijkaard sending a header off a Jonk free kick in the 85th.

But it was Taumet, who came in to replace Marc Overmars in the 59th minute that got the chance to be the hero.

Frank de Boer sent in the cross and Al Daeyea came way off his line to punch it clear. But in climbing over de Boer, the Saudi keeper did not get all of the ball, and it bounced once to Taumet.

"I just closed my eyes and the ball just bounced off my forehead," said Taumet, a sixth-year forward for Feyenoord who was playing in only his seventh game for the "Oranje."

Taumet did not practice for three days last week because of the flu.

The Saudis seemed content with the one goal and appeared to be stalling late in the first half, earning a yellow card for Abdullah Al Dosari.

While they appeared confused and lethargic in the first half, the Dutch became invigorated in the second half.

"In the first half we had very difficult time controlling (the game)," Dutch coach Dick Advocaat said. "Saudi Arabia played better for the first 30 minutes. After that we got our first chance and started taking control."

"The second half was totally different. We played more aggressively. Saudi Arabia had difficulty with our chances in the second half."

The Saudis thought they could weather the storm. With Al Dosari leading a



Fuad Amin (L) of Saudi Arabia's World Cup team celebrates his goal as teammate Mohammad Abdul Jawad (R) runs alongside in first period action during their match against the Netherlands at RFK Stadium Monday (AFP photo)

experience, maybe we could compete more."

The Dutch head in to their next game against the Belgians wipig their brow, realizing they escaped a draw of eveo a loss against a team considered by many to be the weakest in the tournament.

"In most World Cups you could tell between the strongest teams and the weakest teams," Solari said. "Not this World Cup."

Netherlands: Ed de Goey, Ulrich van Goebel, Ronald Koeman, Frank de Boer, Frank Rijkaard, Wim Jonk,

Jan Wouters, Marc Overmars (substitute: Gastoo Taumen', 59th minute) Dennis Bergkamp, Ronald de Boer, Bryan Roy (Peter van Vosse, 81st).

Saudi Arabia: Mohammad Al Daeyea, Abdullah Al Dusari, Mohammad Al Khilawi, Mohammad Al Jawad, Ahmed Madani, Fuad Amin, Fahad Al Bishi, Talal Jebreen, Khalid Al Muwallid, Saeed Owairao (Hamzah Saleh, 69th), Majed Mohammad (Hamzah Falatah, 45th).

Referee — Manuel Diaz Vega, Spain.

Romario leads Brazil in their victory over Russia

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) — Romario lived up to his World Cup billing with a razor-sharp display for favourites Brazil in a 2-0 defeat of a makeshift Russian side here Monday.

He stuck the knife in first after 26 minutes when he scored from fellow striker Bebeto's corner and then won a 53rd minute penalty for captain Rai to score Brazil's 150th World Cup goal.

Romario stabbed Bebeto's corner home from close range before his marker, Vladislav Ternawski, could move. Goalkeeper Dmitry Kharin appeared to be wrong-footed when defender

Marco Santos missed his header and the ball fell to the razor-sharp Romario for his 26th goal in 54 internationals.

Rai doubled the score from the penalty spot after Ternawski whipped Romario's legs from under him as he beat one man and bore down on goal. Rai sent Kharin the wrong way and shot low to the right from the first penalty of this tournament.

Kharin saved a certain third with a great right-handed tip over the bar from Bebeto's hooked-shot in the 62nd minute after Rai and Dunga's one-two on the right of the penalty area gave Dunga room for a hard, low cross.

He denied Bebeto twice in the last quarter. He first had to scramble back to stop the ball on the line as Bebeto's shot slipped through his grasp and then made a fine save from a point-blank header in the last minute.

At least three of the Russian first team refused to come to the United States to play under coach Pavel Sadyrin who also had to make do without suspended captain and defender Viktor Onopko for this match.

Leoardo, in for Branco at left-back, woo the corner which led to the first goal and caused the Russian right flank persistent trouble with his stroog runs.

Romario had appealed for a penalty in the 31st minute when he volleyed Dunga's cross high over. Right-back Jorginho, who plays in the German league for Bayern Munich, had set up the cross with a strong run and stronger tackle.

Ilia Tsymbalar, winning his third cap in place of Oopko, had Russia's best effort after combining well with Dimitry Radchenko.

Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel palmed the shot down and captain Yuri Nikiforov blasted into the wall of Brazilian defenders when Ricardo Rocha pulled Sergei Yuran down with his hand.

However, it was virtually non-stop Brazilian attacking with Leoardo going close when he forced his way past Sergei Gorlukovich hut scoping over from a tight angle. Khario oceded two attempts to hold Zinho's low shot from outside the penalty area as Brazil pursued a policy of shoot oo sight.

Oleg Salenko and Alexander Boroduk wasted late chances for the Russians but it would have been a travesty of justice hd they soached a draw.

Brazil now play Cameroon, who drew 2-2 with Sweden in their first match, on Friday while Russia must pick themselves up for Sweden in Detroit on the same day.

Romario, a four million dollar purchase by Spanish side Barcelona last season, has vowed he will win the World Cup for Brazil. He certainly lived up to his word today.

However, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira sid there was still a long way to go. "There is a lot more this Brazilian team can do," he said. "We missed several chances."

at Stanford Stadium Monday. Romario scored (L) and Sergei Gorlukovich (R) Brazil's first goal as they went on to defeat Russia 2-0 (AFP photo)

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Brazil's Romario (C) fights off Valery Karpine at Stanford Stadium Monday. Romario scored (L) and Sergei Gorlukovich (R) Brazil's first goal as they went on to defeat Russia 2-0 (AFP photo)

Irish World Cup fans stranded by tour company

ORLANDO (R) — Hundreds of Irish soccer fans in Florida for the World Cup finals have been left stranded without hotel rooms or match tickets by a British tour company, Orlando police said Monday.

Police spokesman Mike Holloway said the fans had arrived at Altamonte Springs just outside Orlando to find oo rooms had been booked for them and their travel agent had disappeared.

The fans were sharing up to six in a room because of the problem and were trying to buy tickets for Friday's match in Orlando with Mexico.

The Irish were not the only soccer fans in Orlando with problems at the city's first World Cup game Sunday between Belgium and Morocco.

Hundreds were held up in traffic jams on the main highway leading to the Citrus Bowl Stadium and arrived at the match late, some missing the whole of the first half, police said.

Holloway said revised traffic plans had been drawn up Monday to ensure the problem did not recur at the other four World Cup games being played in the city.

Orlando County fire chief Boh Pearce said around 160 of the 60,000 fans at the match received medical treatment, mostly related to heat.

Temperatures on the pitch reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

He said most of the suffering fans recovered quickly after sitting in the shade and drinking fluids.

Charlton demands drinking time-outs

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — Jack Charlton wants American football-style "time-outs" in the World Cup to save his players from the water torture which laid out striker Tommy Coyne after Saturday's win over Italy in New York.

Coyne finished the Republic of Ireland's victory dehydrated after running miles in the steamy heat of the Giants Stadium as the team's lone striker.

He then sat for three hours after the game before he could produce a urine sample for the official random drugs test and was later violently ill on the plane back to Orlando, where the Irish play Mexico Friday.

Charlton, the republic's manager, fears similar casualties among his squad at the even hotter Citrus Bowl in

Orlando if the system of getting water to the players during matches is not improved.

"We'll be making another formal complaint to FIFA, and sending in a report of Coyne's problems," said Charlton. "On Friday we'll be playing in a stadium surrounded by 50 acres of concrete and it will be even hotter than New York."

"It is all very well being able to give players water on the touchline when there is a natural break in play but you can't bring a striker or a centre back over to the side because you lose the shape of the team."

"We had five players against Italy who couldn't get a drink in the entire first half. The referees want continuous play but we're not asking for anything great, just for the referee to stop play and walk to the touchline two or three times during the game, have a drink of water himself and let everybody else have one too."

Coyne could still play

against Mexico despite missing Monday's light training session, but Tooy Cascarino is continuing to have treatment for a calf injury, improving 35-year-old John Aldridge's chances of playing at least some part Friday.

Kevin Moran's hamstring injury is on the mend, but Charlton is unlikely to alter the centre-back partnership of Paul McGrath and Phil Babb which was a revelation against Italy.

A draw will almost certainly be good enough to guarantee the republic's presence in the last 16.

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TURKISH AIRLINES

Baggio salutes Jack's army

ROBERTO Baggio admitted Italy had been stunned by the strength of Ireland's support in Giants Stadium Saturday. "I must congratulate the Irish on their organisation," Italy's star player said. "We expected it to be 50-50 but somehow they managed to get most of the tickets. The Italians must have been drinking their cappuccino and espresso while the Irish were finding tickets and getting ready. With all their flags it was like a completely Irish crowd" (AFP)



NEWS IN BRIEF

Fan dies of heart attack

MACAO (AP) — A coffee shop owner died of a heart attack apparently caused by fatigue after he stayed up for two straight nights to watch live World Cup soccer matches on television, press reports said Monday. The reports quoted the wife of 37-year-old Lo Chon-Yin as saying her husband collapsed Sunday while serving customers in his shop. She said that besides staying up for two nights to watch World Cup matches, he also had worked all day. Because of the time difference between the United States and Macao, World Cup matches are televised live between 11:30 p.m. (1530 GMT) and 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT) in this Portuguese colony at the tip of south China.

Bar staff end World Cup drought

DUBLIN (R) — Dublin bar staff voted Tuesday to end a strike which threatened to ruin national enjoyment of Ireland's World Cup campaign in the U.S. The Bar Workers' Union mandate, which closed many pubs last Saturday night when Ireland were playing Italy, said it had won a pay deal ahead of Ireland's second match Friday. It agreed with the Licensed Vintners Association a basic pay increase of one per cent, an increase on the cleaning up allowance paid to staff and overtime payments after 12.30 as well as pension scheme improvements.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 8 5 3 ♣ 10 6 5 4 ♠ 9 8 4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A—Partner's redouble shows a good hand, but does not necessarily promise support for the major suit. Therefore, we would stay out of the auction here. Partner can still double to get us in bid.
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 10 ♣ 9 8 2 ♠ 9 8 4 ♠ 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A—You must bid—not out of strength, but weakness. You have a five-card suit, and if you don't show it now, partner is sure to remove to hearts or spades. To prevent landing in a possibly inadequate major suit fit, respond one diamond now.
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 8 7 5 ♣ 7 5 ♠ 10 8 2
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A—You have a useful holding which, opposite the right takeout double, could produce game. To tell partner of your interest, jump to two spades. In response to a takeout double that action is not forcing, merely invitational.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A 9 8 5 ♣ 10 2 ♠ A 10 4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A—It looks as if the right contract is three no trump, but ideally partner should declare to protect his club holding. While we won't fault you if you chose that action, we think three spades is more flexible. That might get the hand declared from the right side and has an added plus in that we can think of hands where four spades on a 4-3 fit could be the top spot.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K Q 7 6 ♣ 9 8 5 ♠ A K 9 4
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
A—Reverse your red-suit holdings and you would have a takeout double. On your actual holding, that action is less appealing because partner is likely to respond to your doubleton, leaving you with no convenient call. An immediate one-no-trump overall is more descriptive.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A K 5 ♣ 9 6 4 3 ♠ 10 9 8 7
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A—You are surely going to bid game no matter what your range. Because of your unbalanced hand, as a safety factor you should check to see whether partner has a four-card heart suit, so bid three clubs—the Stayman Convention.

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Colombia united as they face the U.S.

PASADENA (R) — Colombia's assistant coach Hernan Gomez says the team are more united than ever as they face the World Cup match against hosts the United States Wednesday that is critical for both teams.

Poor results in their opening Group A matches mean that defeat for either side when they clash at the Rose Bowl could have far-reaching consequences. Colombia, who lost 3-1 to Romania in their opening match Saturday, would be as good as eliminated if they lose again, even though they would still have a slim mathematical chance of reaching the second round.

Gomez, playing down any talk of dissent in the camp, said:

"We really got a wake-up call in the last game and there is no dissension in this team. We are totally united. Historically this team does not lose matches back-to-back and maybe the defeat was magnified as we have only let in three goals twice before."

The U.S. drew 1-1 with Switzerland at Pontiac, Michigan, Saturday and if they lose to the South Americans they would have taken just one point out of a possible six — leaving them the slimmest mathematical hope of progressing.

Their place in the second round would depend on winning by a big margin over Romania in their final group match — and hoping for lots of other results to fall their way.

Defeat for coach Bora Milutinovich's American team would almost certainly mean a first-round elimination for the host nation for the first time in World Cup history.

He said Monday: "We have one or two injuries and illnesses but I hope that everyone is able to play against the Colombians, who, despite their defeat Saturday, are still one of the favourites to win the cup."

WorldCupUSA



Today's matches

Group A: Romania vs. Switzerland in Detroit at 23.00 Amman time.
Group A: U.S. vs. Colombia in Los Angeles at 02:30 Amman time.

"I was pleased overall with the way we played against Switzerland, the only thing I didn't like was that we didn't win."

"The only improvement I would like to see is for the players to improve more on the pitch if things aren't going right. We did not do that against Switzerland."

Bora's main concerns are a continuing injured right winger which prevented midfielder Claudio Reyna from training Monday, and a severe allergic reaction which has prevented forward Eric Wynalda, who scored his side's goal against the Swiss, from training.

Colombia reported no injury problems apart from bruising on striker Faustino Asprilla's right ankle following a knock in Saturday's match.

Their defeat to Romania was only their second loss in 34 internationals, and head coach Francisco Maturana will be looking for two areas of improvement.

He conceded after the game that Colombia lost because they played as individuals rather than as a team. But they also lost because they never varied their approach from going straight down the middle, playing into the Romanians' hands.

"We won't make that mistake again," said Maturana. Probable teams:

Argentina thrash Greece 4-0

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) — Diego Maradona and Gabriel Batistuta shot Argentina into World Cup title contention here Tuesday as Greece were overwhelmed 4-0 in their opening Group D tie.

Batistuta scored the first hat-trick since Tomas Skuhravy's in Czechoslovakia's 4-1 second round win against Costa Rica in 1990.

Maradona, feisty and dangerous, belied his 33 years and blasted in a vintage score — his first World Cup goal for eight years.

Maradona did not score in seven games in the 1990 World Cup in Italy and his last strike was a brace of goals against Belgium in the 1986 semi-finals in Mexico.

Turning in the box on to his favoured left foot, he drilled the ball from 15 metres through a packed goalmouth into the top of the net with 59 minutes gone.

The old man of the side,

written off so many times, enjoyed a second spring in steady rain and low temperatures.

Argentina were off to a stunning start with the fastest goal of the World Cup so far.

With only 1min 59sec gone, Diego Simeone, the influential midfielder who plays for Spanish club Sevilla, freed Batistuta down the left with an elaborate one-two.

The Fiorentina star accepted the invitation and sped towards goal, and slid it in to the far corner for his 21st goal for Argentina.

Greek keeper Antonio Minou was partly to blame, running out to meet the Argentine striker but misjudging the angle.

Batistuta, the toast of Buenos Aires, scored again in the 44th minute, running on to a pass from Fernando Caceres and shooting high and wide.

He completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot when Simeone was fouled in the

last minute. The Greeks took a full 13 minutes before they had their first shot on target — a limp overhead kick from Panagiotis Tsalouchidis, the 31-year-old Olympiakos defender.

He was the man responsible for policing Maradona and fouled the 33-year-old star eight times before he was booked for a tackle from behind in the 24th minute. Caceres was also booked, in the 40th minute.

But Maradona had the last laugh on his marksman, producing a burst of brilliance — rare these days — that set the capacity crowd alight at the Foxboro stadium. He was taken off with seven minutes to go.

Delivering the lie to those who had written off the two-times world champions, Argentina issued an early warning to Germany and Brazil that they were back in title contention again.

McNeil ousts top-seeded Graf in first-round at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Overcoming high winds and rain delays Tuesday, Lori McNeil upset five-time champion and world no. 1 Steffi Graf in the first round of Wimbledon — the first time a reigning titlist exited so quickly.

McNeil, long considered a dangerous grass-court player who never fulfilled her potential, played cleverly and courageously in difficult conditions on centre court, serving well despite the gusts and biting away from Graf's forehand to win 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

"It doesn't hurt to lose my crown — it hurts to lose," Graf said.

Graf, seeking her fourth straight title here, had not lost in the first round of any tournament since the Virginia Slims championship in 1992. Her opponent then was McNeil.

That was the 30-year-old American's first and only vic-

tory in nine career meetings with Graf until Tuesday.

Graf was seemingly more troubled by the wind — especially on her service toss.

In other matches, third-seeded Conchita Martinez, a surprise semifinalist last year, beat Canada's Rene Simpson-Alter, 6-1, 6-3, and ninth-seeded Lindsay Davenport, just back from her high school graduation in California, beat France's Julie Halard 6-1, 6-4. The no. 16 seed, Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, beat American Shann Stafford, 6-7 (8-6), 6-2, 6-4.

No. 15 Sabine Hack of Germany became the first seeded woman to lose, falling to Florencia Labat of Argentina, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

In a two-hour battle between non-seeds, Nana Miyagi of Japan, ranked only 181st, rallied to a 4-6, 7-5, 8-6 victory over American Lisa Raymond, who reached the

fourth round last year.

Opening day Monday was a festival for four former champions. Each had been struggling, one way or another, but getting back on their beloved Wimbledon grass was like a tonic.

"This is the place where you come and prove yourself," said Andre Agassi. "It's always seemed to help my rise to then occasion."

Agassi, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg — winners of the six of the past nine men's titles — came away heartened by solid first-round victories. So did nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, moved by a sustained standing ovation as she started her 22nd, and final Wimbledon.

The men's titleholder, Pete Sampras, opened his defence with an awesome display of serving against fellow American Jared Palmer.

He hammered 25 aces in his 7-6 (7-4), 7-5, 6-3 victory.

Australian skiers slalom on asphalt and artificial snow

THREDBO, Australia (R) — Australian skiers are a dedicated breed — the nearest snow can be a six-hour drive away, forcing them to practise on asphalt roads where a slalom risks a dangerous collision with cars.

Even if they make it to the snowfields unscathed, the chances of actually skiing down an alpine slope on genuine snow are remote. Most resorts are forced to use snow-making machines because of the blazing sun.

This year the three-month ski season opened as usual on the second weekend in June, but the lack of snow saw chairlifts at New South Wales resorts left idle.

But this has not deterred 20-year-old Sydney University student Damien Heman. At night during the ski season Heman can be found rollerblading down a slalom course on a road at Collaroy, a northern Sydney beachside suburb.

Heman said rollerblading was the closest thing to skiing and helped build strength in his leg muscles before hitting the real slopes.

Heman, who has used this

method of ski training for the past four years, said he would drive about six times a year to Kosciuszko Thredbo, a ski resort 520 km (320 miles) southwest of Sydney.

"It's worth the drive... one time I skied on Christmas day," Heman said.

Kim Clifford, operations manager at Kosciuszko Thredbo, said many ski resorts have invested heavily in snowmaking equipment over the last few years to appease disgruntled skiers.

Many unhappy Australian skiers now opt to fly to New Zealand where the higher peaks ensure better snow.

Clifford said about \$51.1 million has been spent on the Thredbo resort over the past six years to upgrade ski facilities and snowmaking capabilities.

Last year was one of the worst seasons on record for Australia's half a dozen main ski resorts as a mixture of warm weather and unseasonal heavy rain reduced the number of skiing days by half.

Ian Grant, general manager at the Falls Creek ski resort in Victoria, said his

resort increased its market share last year because of extensive snow-making facilities.

"Snow-making has meant in our case we have had skiable snow on virtually every day of the declared season since 1985 and the only exception was last year," Grant said.

Australia's main ski resorts are in the two most populated states New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria.

The Victorian alpine area has three main resorts, Mount Buller 237 km (147 miles) northeast of Melbourne and Falls Creek and Mount Hotham both about 380 km (235 miles) from the state capital.

Even though the resorts are far from the coast, Australia's beach culture can

still be found at ski resorts. Many of the country's surfers and skateboarders ride down the ski slopes on snowboards.

"Snowboarding is attracting a whole new group of people who have never skied and it fits with the Australian psychology of coming from the surf," said ski industry consultant Ian Talbot.

Resorts are also trying to attract more Australians to ski with money-back offers for beginners unhappy with their snow experience.

Ski resorts are also hoping to tap the lucrative Asian tourist market. Clifford said the Kosciuszko Thredbo resort has just completed marketing tours in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He said the resort was marketing a package for

Asian tourists combining a three day learn-to-ski tour at the beginning of the season in July, or the end of the season in September and October, with the rest of their Australian holiday.

Talbot said the attraction of skiing amongst Australia's

native fauna makes up for the lack of mountain height and natural snow.

"Australia offers a unique ski experience. Snow-laden gum trees are an amazing site — much more picturesque and more dramatic than skiing amongst fir trees."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Beirut passes law allowing news broadcasts

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government has approved a draft law that allows broadcasts of news and political programmes on private television and radio stations. But pending final approval from parliament, the draft law passed after a late night cabinet meeting on Monday failed to lift a controversial ban on private newscasts slapped on Lebanon's 50 television and 100 radio stations on March 23. The ban has ignited protests from politicians, media representatives, parliamentarians and religious leaders. Media in Lebanon had enjoyed freedoms almost unmatched in the Arab World. "Until this moment nothing can be added to the government's decision on March 23, 1994 to stop news broadcasts pending the new media law," Minister of Information Michel Samaha was quoted by newspapers as telling reporters after the session.

Iran to repatriate all Afghans in two weeks

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 750,000 Afghan refugees living in Iran have been given until July 2 to leave the country or face legal action, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. An official from Khorasan, a northeastern province bordering Afghanistan, told IRNA on Monday that the repatriation would take place within the framework of an agreement reached between Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR officials will be stationed at three border passages to provide services for the refugees, who have been issued identity cards, said Ali Akbari, an advisor to Khorasan's governor. He did not give details on the types of services provided, but said the refugees would be allowed to take with them their belongings and cash. The male refugees who were married in Iran could take along their wives.

Palestinian acquitted of Berlin killing

SIDON (R) — A Lebanese court acquitted on Tuesday a Palestinian accused of the 1984 killing of a Libyan dissident in Germany. The acquittal of Yasser Al Shraydi by a court in South Lebanon from the shooting of Mustafa Al Ashe in Berlin removed a legal obstacle blocking his extradition to Germany. Shraydi is sought by Germany in connection with the 1986 bombing of a West Berlin nightclub which killed two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman and injured 200 people. The court found Shraydi and another Palestinian innocent in the shooting case and ordered their immediate release "unless they are facing charges in other cases." A Lebanon judge who interrogated Shraydi in January about the Berlin nightclub bombing issued an arrest warrant for him after Germany's extradition request.

Filipinos in Bahrain complain of lack of pay

MANILA (AP) — Lack of pay is the most frequent complaint by Filipinos working in Bahrain, the department of foreign affairs reported Tuesday. The Philippine embassy in Manama said complaints about salary accounted for about one-third of the 35 complaints filed last month by Filipino nationals in Bahrain. Others include sexual harassment and physical mistreatment by employers. A third of the complainants were working as maids, the statement said. Other complaints were filed by merchant seamen, cooks and other workers. There was no indication how the complaints were resolved. More than 2,300 Filipinos left for jobs in Bahrain during the first quarter of this year, the department said.

Iran claims 32,000 held by Iraq or missing

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of the Iranian prisoners-of-war commission claimed on Tuesday that 32,000 Iranians were still held prisoner by Iraq or missing in action since the 1980-88 Gulf war, Tehran Radio reported. The official, Mohammad Ali Nazaran, said Iran and Iraqi teams would meet in Baghdad soon to review each side's files and proposals on prisoners and soldiers missing in action.

Egypt's national dialogue set for Saturday

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's long-awaited national dialogue between the ruling National Democratic Party and political opposition groups will start on Saturday, a senior official said on Tuesday. Mostafa Khalil, a former prime minister acting as rapporteur for the planned discussions, said the names of 250 people taking part would be published later this week. The dialogue, expected to be boycotted by two of the main opposition parties, will cover political and economic reforms and the government's confrontation with Muslim militants. "The aim is to come to specific recommendations by consensus which will be presented to the government and to President (Hosni) Mubarak to be implemented," Mr. Khalil told Reuters. Egyptian newspapers said a 42-member committee appointed on May 29 to organise the dialogue was to present its programme to Mr. Mubarak later Tuesday.

Israel to set up free export zones

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament has passed a bill allowing for free export processing zones in development areas. The Knesset voted late Monday to approve the bills which will grant 20-year tax breaks to firms investing in the zones which will be established gradually. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat wants to attract foreign investment into the zones and press reports say Japanese and U.S. companies have already expressed interest.

'Supergun' could have fired 1,200 km

LONDON (R) — "Supergun" Iraq tried to build before the Gulf war were designed to fire guided rockets more than 1,200 kilometres, making all of Israel an easy target, a British aviation magazine said on Tuesday. Flight International said it had obtained design documents for the superguns, prepared by Canadian ballistics expert Gerald Bull's SRC firm, which showed far more progress had been made with the rockets than Western analysts had believed. Brussels-based SRC worked on a series of military projects for the Iraqi government. "Project Babylon," as the attempt to build the superguns was codenamed, collapsed after Bull's mysterious murder in 1990 and the subsequent seizure of components in European countries, including Britain.

Australia probes criminal migrant claim

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government is investigating claims that two Afghan immigrants to Australia committed war crimes during the Afghanistan civil war, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said on Tuesday. "The allegations in question are known to the Australian security authorities and are being investigated at the moment," Mr. Evans told parliament in answer to a question. He was asked if the government had knowingly let in two Afghan migrants involved with war crimes committed by the Najibullah regime during the 1980s. "Has the former deputy head of Khad, the ruthless secret service in Afghanistan, been granted permanent residency?" asked opposition parliamentarian David McGibbon. "Has the former vice president of this repressive regime been granted a temporary visa, and was the government aware of the background of these two individuals when residency and a temporary visa was granted to them?" he asked.

Sudan detains Mahdi

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese security forces have detained former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and three of his aides on charges of plotting against the military government, state television reported.

In a statement broadcast on Monday, a "high level" security source accused Dr. Mahdi's Umma Party of planning to assassinate prominent political figures and destroy vital installations in the capital, Khartoum.

The security forces had uncovered a "criminal conspiracy" by the dissolved Umma Party against the country's security and stability in cooperation and coordination with elements of foreign intelligence powers, the source said.

He said Dr. Mahdi approved and supervised the plot.

Dr. Mahdi was arrested on Monday after three of his aides had confessed, the statement said.

The three aides were named as retired Brigadier Abdul Rahman Farah, a former advisor to the state security organ during Dr. Mahdi's tenure, Hamad Omar Bagadi, an Umma Party politician, and Saifeddin Said, a member of the party's security committee.

Dr. Mahdi and the liberal Umma Party won the largest bloc of seats in democratic elections in 1986 and Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, now president of Sudan, overthrew his government on June 30, 1989.

The source said the security authorities monitored the plot for a considerable time and arrested the conspirators at the moment it was to be carried out.

It said those detained had confessed to making contacts with foreign circles. The statement did not directly implicate a foreign government but Brig Farah and Bagadi were shown on television mentioning the names of Egyptians and money they said they received from them. But what they said was mostly inaudible.

In Cairo, Siddiq Boulad, deputy chairman of the Umma Party in the Middle East, told Reuters that police took Dr. Mahdi from his house in the Sudanese capital on Monday evening.

He also confirmed the arrests of Bagadi and Gen. Farah but accused the third man, Mr. Said, of being an agent for the Sudanese government.

He said the Sudanese authorities had arrested 15 to 20 senior members of the Umma Party over the past two weeks.

"The political isolation of the regime, the deteriorating situation in Sudan, the regime's failure in the war in the south and the approach of the fifth anniversary of the coup have led the regime to fabricate conspiracies," he added.



SEALING A DEAL: Laura Buxton of business deals, with the male and female Sotheby's Tribal Art department blows the embedded in it symbolizing a legally binding deal off a Kings/VIII Nail fetish from Zaire. The fetish is expected to fetch £100,000 when it goes on sale on Monday next week (AFP photo)

Iran mourns blast victims; no clear clue to perpetrators

TEHRAN (R) — Iran observed a day of national mourning on Tuesday for the victims of a bomb blast that tore through its holiest Shi'ite Muslim shrine, killing at least 25 worshippers and wounding 70.

Tehran Radio broadcast religious speeches and verses from the Koran, in mourning.

One Tehran newspaper blamed the Monday bombing at the Imam Reza mausoleum in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Western support for the Iraq-based opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq group.

Another newspaper hinted at the possible involvement of the Sunni Muslim Wahhabi sect active in Pakistan in the attack which was the bloodiest of its kind in Iran since a wave of truck-bomb blasts blamed on Iraqi agents during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Officials said the five kilogram bomb exploded in the main hall of the shrine as the sprawling complex was packed with Muslims commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the prophet

Mohammad's grandson and the third Shi'ite Muslim imam.

An Interior Ministry official said on Monday the explosion killed 25 people and wounded 70, including women and many children.

He said some of the wounded were in critical condition and the death toll might rise. Earlier reports put the toll at 70 killed and 114 injured.

Funerals for the victims would be held in Mashhad on Wednesday, Tehran Radio said.

Residents of Mashhad said the mausoleum was closed to the public on Tuesday morning as workers continued to remove broken glass from the blood splattered green marble floor and debris from a wall and dome that caved in by the explosion.

Tehran Radio said the mausoleum re-opened just before noon.

"The police presence in the city is more than the past, they are stationed at every main intersection but mostly just watching," one Mashhad resident said by telephone.

Security officials said on Monday they had arrested a

number of suspects. They said clues and "type-written tracts" found at the scene pointed to Mujahideen's involvement.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani blamed the Mujahideen for "this horrible crime at a holy site."

The Mujahideen denied responsibility. A statement by Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi condemned the bombing and said it was carried out by "the mullahs' terrorist dictatorship," referring to Iran's Islamic government.

Iran's Salam newspaper said "deviant religious groups" — a phrase used by Iran's media to refer to the Sunni Wahhabi sect most active in Pakistan across the border — may be responsible.

"We should not overlook other possibilities besides monafegh (a reference to the Mujahideen), especially sectarian deviant religious groups that could be behind the bombing."

"But until all is cleared, based on past experience, obviously monafegh are responsible," it said.

Palestinians protest Israeli construction in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The trust that controls Islamic monuments appealed Tuesday to Arab states to stop Israeli attempts to build a scenic overlook for tourists near one of Islam's holiest sites.

The officials said in their appeal addressed to Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that the construction outside the walls of the Old City, near the Al-Aqsa Mosque, was "an assault on Muslim lands."

The nine-acre site has been in dispute for almost 20 years. But this week Israeli bulldozers arrived to start clearing the land for a multimillion dollar development plan approved by the government.

The tourism project includes a scenic overlook above the Kidron Valley, mentioned frequently in the Old and New Testaments in the Bible, and a promenade along the road and through the valley itself. Tourists now stand on a narrow strip of roadway.

The site contains the graves of some of the Prophet Mohammad's associates and lies just outside Al Aqsa, the third holiest mosque in Islam. The site contains some of the oldest ruins in Jerusalem. Construction was halted after some Jewish graves were found at the site, but would continue after they were excavated, press reports said.

"The municipality is looking for trouble and I advise them to stop creating problems in the city and to postpone the project," Adnan Hussein, the director of the Waqf, told the Associated Press.

He said the project was another attempt by Israel to put its stamp on the city ahead of the two-year deadline for peace negotiations to focus on the final status of Jerusalem.

Ghali urges aid for Palestinian economy

PARIS (Special) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has appealed for international assistance for Palestinian development, as a seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs opened in Paris.

The seminar was organised by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Through a statement read out by Hassan Fodha, director of the United Nations Information Centre in Paris, he said such assistance would be essential as the Palestinians embarked on self-rule.

In order to sustain popular support for the declaration of principles, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last September, tangible im-

provements in the Palestinians' living conditions must be brought about quickly, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, said agreements had been reached between the PLO and Israel, despite divergent views and perceptions on many thorny issues.

However, for those agreements to be sustained and to bear fruit, a political environment must be created in the region conducive to the process. The Sept. 14, 1993 agreement between Jordan and Israel was a step in that direction.

Omar Massalha, of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), described a plan of action de-

veloped by UNESCO and the PLO to develop Palestinian human resources and to set up a managerial system of government in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information.

Leila Shabid, permanent observer of Palestine to UNESCO, said that since last year's seminar in Paris, the Israeli army had withdrawn from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, municipal authorities had been established in many cities where they had not existed before, banks had opened branches in the Palestinian territory and the Palestinian holding companies had been founded. A new reality was being built in the Middle East, based on

acceptance, pluralism, tolerance and democracy. A society based on such a reality would provide safety and prosperity for all.

Following the opening statements, the seminar began its review of challenges and prospects faced in building a Palestinian national economy. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia and Greece, as well as by representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The seminar secretary read out a message received from the director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Aid modalities leave little room for PLO

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to reports, the World Bank will not be handing the entire \$1.2 billion that has been

chalked out as aid to rebuild Palestinian infrastructure in the occupied territories in the next three years and the Palestinian self-rule authority will be dealing directly with the U.N. system and donors on a bilateral basis for the bulk of the funds, a senior World Bank official has said.

The arrangement also meant that the Palestinian authority will not receive any massive amounts except for properly accounted-for funds to pay for the actual cost of running the autonomy.

All other payments for projects will be made directly by the donors or the World Bank, as the case may be, to the firms implementing the projects. The system of payment appeared directly in contradiction to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders' belief that the organisation would be receiving the funds directly in response to a list of budget allocations to be provided to the World Bank.

International donors have pledged about \$2.2 billion to support Palestinian economic

rebuilding in the next five years. The allocation of \$1.2 billion in the next three years came from this amount.

Ram Chopra, head of the Middle East (Al Mashreq) division of the World Bank, said the international agency would only be handing between \$150 million to \$200 million of the aid and the rest will be handled by the U.N. and directly between the Palestinian authority and donor governments.

"The World Bank has been asked to be the secretariat of the donor community to coordinate the aid, but that does not mean all the money goes through the bank," Mr. Chopra said in an interview late Monday. "Of the \$1.2 billion, maybe \$150 billion, \$200 million might go through the World Bank directly through the bank's account or co-financed by the World Bank. Otherwise, they will go through the U.N. system (and) they (the Palestinian authority) will have bilateral dealings with the donors."

As an example of co-financing, Mr. Chopra said the World Bank board of governors approved a loan of \$128 million to develop "emergency construction projects" in the transportation and power sectors last

month.

The money will be directly paid to the contractors undertaking the project, as will the case be for all programmes covered under the \$1.2 billion allocation.

The actual running cost of Palestinian self-rule will come from a special Holst Fund, named after the late foreign minister of Norway. The fund's \$25 million base was expanded to \$55 million to \$60 million during a donors' meeting in Paris last month. During that meeting the donors also agreed to pay \$42 million from the fund as self-rule running costs.

The disbursement of the money will be done through an international auditing firm operating in the autonomous territory so that the "needs of the donors for accountability and transparency" could be met.

"These things would not get released in the sense of a cheque going out," said Mr. Chopra. "They are released by the World Bank against specified items of expenditure. They don't get released in one cheque."

"The flow of aid has started, but that does not mean that all the \$42 million has been released."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said two weeks ago

that unless he receives the funds he would not go to the autonomous territories. It was not immediately known whether he was still insisting on a direct release of the funds to the PLO.

But Mr. Chopra said: "It has been made very clear to Chairman Arafat and the PLO leadership for quite some time under what circumstances the money could be provided."

Another component of the aid system is another \$35 million technical assistance fund which will finance pre-feasibility and feasibility studies. That fund is also administered by the World Bank.

Twenty projects are in an advanced stage with financing from this fund, Mr. Chopra said without giving details.

The third element of the arrangement is the \$1.2 billion allocation for medium- and long-term infrastructure projects whose feasibility is established by studies conducted with financing from the technical assistance fund.

The projects covered under this programme were selected from a list of projects worth \$2.8 billion after consulting with the Palestinians, the Israelis and the donor community, Mr. Chopra said.

Asked whether the World Bank aid was condition on any specific nature of the self-rule government, Mr. Chopra said: "The conditions that we in the World Bank set are to make sure that circumstances exist that the funds can be widely used, and used for the intended purposes."

"We are not particularly interested directly in what type of government is in place as long as what we call governance conditions are satisfied."

"Governance," he said, meant "the system of government in place is such that it works, (and) that it can ensure wide of the money."

"As long as those conditions remain satisfied we will disburse the funds," he added.

The money that the donors give for running cost of self-rule will be spent on salaries of the administration, schoolbooks, teachers, medicine for hospitals etc., Mr. Chopra said.

He said the donors do not normally provide money for current costs but made an exception to the rule, "given the special nature of the needs in the West Bank and Gaza."

"One should not forget that," he added.

COLUMN

Mitterrand, Bush break bread at Euro-Disney

PARIS (AFP) — Euro-Disney may not be President Francois Mitterrand's cup of tea, but apparently he can stomach dinner there. The French head of state broke bread Monday night with former U.S. president George Bush at the Cinderella Restaurant at the Mickey Mouse Park outside Paris. The two men then watched the amusement park's nightly parade. When the park opened in April 1992, Mr. Mitterrand said Euro-Disney "is not exactly my cup of tea." Mr. Bush arrived in Paris Monday on a private visit after a weeklong stay in Greece with his wife Barbara as guests of Greek shipping magnate Ianis Latsis.

Taxi vanishes with Prince Charles' files

LONDON (R) — British police Tuesday were searching for a London taxi driver who drove off with financial documents about the Prince of Wales's Duchy of Cornwall private estate. A lawyer left the briefcase in the back seat of the taxi and the driver left before he had time to pay, police said. "A woman reported a lost briefcase in the back of a taxi," they added. "We're treating it as a case of lost property." Details about the accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall property of the heir to the throne were published Friday. A palace spokesman said the missing papers did not contain any sensitive material.

U.S. students fare poorly in global survey

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — An international survey found that American college teachers think the worst of their students' math skills — and not much better when it comes to writing and speaking. Only 15 per cent said American high schools adequately prepared students for college-level math and quantitative reasoning. That was the poorest showing in the survey of 14 countries released Sunday by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Foundation questionnaires were completed by 20,000 respondents in five European, four Western Hemisphere and four Asia-Pacific nations, plus Hong Kong. Faculty in Hong Kong gave their students the highest math rating, with 40 per cent saying pupils were adequately prepared. South Korea was a close second. The findings parallel the results of international tests in which Asian students regularly outscore Americans in math. Asked if undergraduates are adequately prepared in writing and speaking skills, 20 per cent or less of the faculty thought so in the United States, Australia, Hong Kong, Chile and Israel. Almost 60 per cent of South Korean teachers said their students were sufficiently trained in writing and speaking.

U.S. teenager released from Singapore jail

SINGAPORE (AFP) — American teenager Michael Fay, caned for vandalising cars in a case which gained worldwide attention, said he was in good health after his release Tuesday and was looking forward to returning home immediately. "I am happy to be out. My health is good. I am looking forward to the future very much," Fay told reporters outside the U.S. embassy after an 80-minute meeting with U.S. officials. "I am looking forward to going back to my own country," added Fay, who was caned despite the public disapproval of President Bill Clinton and much of the U.S. media. Fay, who turned 19 in jail last month, was released in the early morning from Queenstown Remand Prison, where he served 83 days of a four-month term that was reduced for good conduct. His father, George Fay, said that he and his son, who has lived in Singapore since August 1992 with his mother and stepfather, would leave for the United States Wednesday.